

Kimche hints at clampdown on press

Israel airs complaints against news coverage

By Marcus Ellason

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — An international symposium on the media in wars is giving journalists and government officials a chance to air bitter grievances about war coverage, primarily in Lebanon and the Falklands.

The charges of government obstructionism and media excesses are coming up at the three-day international symposium on Media in Wars and their Aftermath, which has drawn reporters and academics from 22 countries.

David Kimche, director general of the Israeli Foreign Ministry, delivered a harsh speech in which he claimed Lebanon war reporting has "absolutely and completely distorted, and did us irreparable damage."

Mr. Kimche charged that many reporters were hostile to Israel, "did everything to belittle and belittle its case," favoured the PLO version perpetuated casually figures long after they were disproved, and even blamed Israel for war damage that had been inflicted during the Lebanon civil war long before Israel invaded.

"The media felt Israel was guilty and must be castigated, and that the facts therefore must be shown accordingly," he charged.

He levelled most of his criticism at television, saying it was so obsessed with pictures of violence and damage that it gave the impression Lebanon was destroyed by Israeli invasion.

Mr. Kimche claimed to know of a case in which a TV network, which he did not identify, staged an incident portraying a healthy Arab baby as being dead.

Clampdown hinted

He hinted that Israel might clamp down on reporters it considered hostile. "We must ask ourselves: Should we or any other democratic society take steps against those who are consistently hostile to the country? Is there any punishment for those who vilify, castigate and flaunt basic tenets of their profession, namely truth, accuracy, objectivity..."

"We haven't until now decided to punish hostile journalists," he said, "But this question has to be asked."

Another Foreign Ministry official, Yaaqov Levy, presented TV footage purporting to prove

bias. A Finnish programme juxtaposed the bombing of Kampuchea with Israeli actions in Lebanon. A CBS report on the Falklands spoke of "the courage and precision" of British troops overrunning Port Stanley. The same correspondent then reported on "the trail of death and destruction" left by the Israelis. He cast British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher as a bold, decisive leader, and Israeli Defence Minister Ariel Sharon as "Ruthless" and "undisciplined."

Mr. Levy, who escorted many journalists through Lebanon, said he often found them suffering jet lag, overwork and indigestion. They had to travel for hours to the story, find interviewees, grapple with language difficulties, rush back to Tel Aviv and get stories out before deadline.

"So the temptation was to take the short cut, find a simplistic story, film some damage, ask a few opinions," he said. Rarely did reporters tackle the complex background of the story they were covering, he claimed.

But Mr. Levy's presentation also included examples of the reporting Israel liked, leading Boston Globe National Editor H.D.S. Greenway to observe that obviously there was fair reporting from Lebanon too.

He doubted Mr. Kimche's dead-baby claim, saying any reporter caught doing such a thing would be fired.

Many reporters blamed the Israelis for the problem, saying they obstructed movement to prevent them getting in-depth stories, or provided officers who were ill-informed and didn't themselves know the difference between old and new war damage.

A West German correspondent told Mr. Kimche that mendacious reporting was far outweighed by the lies told by governments.

Shimon Peres, leader of the opposition Labour Party, said "We cannot entrust, with all due respect to you, in the hands of a small group of people (the media) the outcome of a war."

Daniel Schorr, the veteran American broadcaster now with Cable Network News, told Mr. Peres that "to say the media is a body exercising its own responsibilities and restraint as a group is to pay too much respect to the media."

Competition had turned the media into "an arena for conflict," he said.

ICRC confirms Israeli captives' good condition

DAMASCUS (KUNA) — A representative of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) who visited two Israeli soldiers captured by a Palestinian commando movement said the two prisoners looked healthy and are being well treated by their captors.

The ICRC representative, who called on the two captives with a doctor designated by the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), conducted medical checkups for them.

The two Israelis were captured by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command last summer, in addition to six soldiers seized by the mainstream Fatah movement headed by PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat.

Separate mediation efforts are under way by Austria and the ICRC to exchange the eight Israeli prisoners for an estimated 5,000 Palestinian Lebanese fighters and civilians.

The PFLP-GC on Sunday delivered two letters from the Israeli prisoners to a special envoy of Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky. It also screened a film on them, which was shown on Israeli television.



Prisoners Nissim Salem (top) and Yusef Gail as seen on Israeli television (AP wirephoto)



ROAD VICTIM: Interior Minister Ahmad 'Ubeidat greets a traffic accident victim during Jordan's celebration of International Traffic Day on Wednesday. The Jordan Society for the Prevention of Road Accidents announced that there were 41,163 accidents between 1980 and 1982, leaving 1,389 people dead and 24,653 injured. The ceremony at Al-Husseini Youth City on Wednesday was intended to publicise the situation and try to improve road conduct (Petra photo)

The Jerusalem Star

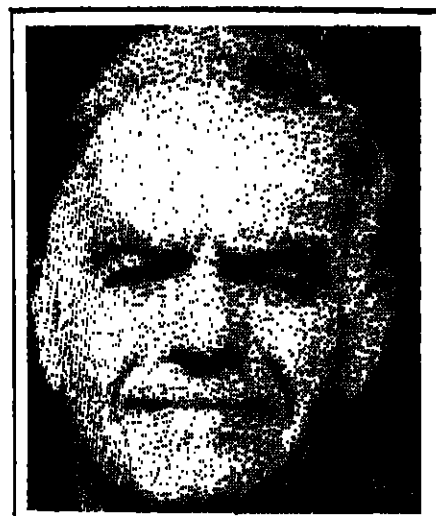
Vol 1, Number 41

Amman, 12-18 May 1983

Amman, 12-18 May 1983

'Accord leaves us free to act,' Shamir says

Incidents reported in Israel, W. Bank



Yitzhak Shamir

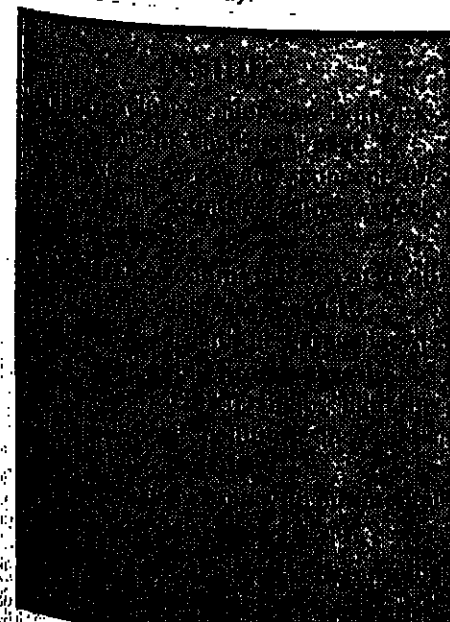
OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir told **WIREPHOTO** on Wednesday the troop withdrawal signed soon, but Israel will remain on its own interests if the Syrians and Palestinians don't also agree to withdraw.

US presidential envoy Philip Habib, meanwhile, met with Mr. Shamir and then returned to Beirut to work on the clarifications requested by Israel in the accord.

Israel Radio said Mr. Habib hoped to wrap up the last details on this trip and then summon Israeli and Lebanese representatives to a final meeting and set a date for signing the pact.

Mr. Shamir's statement to the Knesset, Israel's parliament, was designed to pre-empt an opposition bid to force an immediate vote on the agreement. A vote will be held only next Monday, when the pact may already have been signed.

But opposition Labour Party leader Shimon Peres sharply attacked the government for its handling of the Lebanon war and of the negotiations. Mr. Peres said Israeli troops in Lebanon were exposed to a war of attrition in which they suffer casualties continually.



Mr. Shamir said the pact "will be signed in the coming days by Israel and Lebanon with the participation of the US government." He called the United States "a full partner" in the accord which Secretary of State George Shultz worked out in two weeks of Middle East shuttle diplomacy.

The foreign minister's speech included the first official, on-the-record summary of the pact, though many details have been published. He did not go into detail on a major issue still being clarified, the status of Saad Haddad, the Israeli-backed militia leader in southern Lebanon.

Mr. Shamir said Haddad's troops will join the Lebanese army and become "the kernel of the force which is to guard security in the area." The agreement reportedly calls for Haddad to become deputy commander of the Lebanese army forces in southern Lebanon.

The agreement calls for the evaluation of all Syrian and PLO fighters, Mr. Shamir said, and in a security belt 40-45 kilometres deep in southern Lebanon there is to be close co-operation between Israeli and Lebanese troops.

It will take years to build up the Lebanese army to a point where it can control southern Lebanon, Mr. Shamir said, so the "only solution is continuous arms." "between the Israeli and Lebanese officers will deal with military problems."

Mr. Shamir said a mixed commission of Israeli and Lebanese officers will deal with military problems.

Mr. Peres said the Labour Party would not support an agreement that does not set a precise timetable for withdrawing all foreign troops and that is dependent on a Syrian veto.

More Soviets leave

Meanwhile, a second group of families of Soviet diplomats left Beirut on Wednesday. Soviet officials denied the evacuation had any connection to the security situation in the city.

An official at the Beirut International Airport said 21 women and children boarded the regular weekly Aeroflot flight. He said the flight left four hours earlier than the scheduled 1 p.m. departure.

No explanation was given for the change.

Deng out of Congress

PEKING (AP) — China's top leader, Deng Xiaoping, has withdrawn from the National People's Congress, China's parliament.

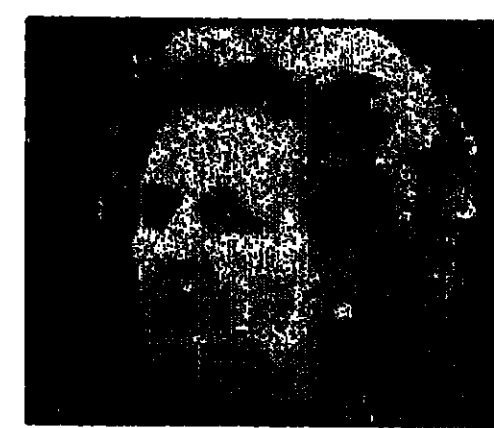
Other leading figures absent from a list of the 2,978 members, published in major newspapers on Wednesday, included Chen Yun and Ye Jianying, fellow members with Deng of the elite standing committee of the Communist Party Politburo.

The other three members, Communist Party General Secretary Hu Yaobang, Premier Zhao Ziang and Li Xianlian, all were elected to the Congress — Hu and Zhao from Peking and Li from Hubei Province.

Ye, 85, had served as chairman of the Congress standing committee and thus as the equivalent of China's head of state. He had withdrawn from the Congress because of age and ill health.

Deng recently gave up his position as chairman of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, a group set up to give non-Communist Party members a voice in state affairs.

His withdrawal, however, does nothing to affect his position as China's top leader. He is chairman of the new Communist Party Central Advisory Commission and retains the key post of chairman of the party's military commission. Because of his age, he now leaves day-to-day affairs to his political allies Hu and Zhao.



Margaret Thatcher

Mrs. Thatcher invokes Soviet nuclear threat

LONDON (Agencies) — The Soviet Union will avoid serious negotiations on nuclear arms reduction until after Britain's 9 June general election, Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher said on Wednesday.

"I don't think Russia is seriously going to negotiate on disarmament until she knows the result of this election," Mrs. Thatcher said in a radio interview.

Her Conservative government has decided to deploy US nuclear Cruise missiles in Britain by December, while retaining the country's own nuclear arsenal. The opposition socialist Labour Party is pledged to ban Cruise, scrap British nuclear weapons and get rid of US F-111 bombers and nuclear-armed submarines currently based in this country.

The Soviet Union wants British and French nuclear weapons included in superpower disarmament talks.

Mrs. Thatcher was interviewed on a morning **Broadcasting Corp.** chat and music programme.

It was the first time she has used the argument to counter opposition charges she has "cut and run" while ahead in opinion polls and before unemployment and inflation rise.

The Conservative Party is given a 15 per cent lead over Labour in an opinion poll published here on Wednesday.

With just a month to go before Britain's general election, the poll published in the Daily Star newspaper shows backing for Prime Minister Thatcher's party at 46 per cent and Labour at 31 per cent.

The Social Democrat-Liberal alliance is given 21 per cent, and other parties two per cent.

The survey covered more than 1,000 people in 53 constituencies throughout Britain.

(London Correspondent Reports, page 32)

English local polls gain added importance

By Len Rockingham
Star London Correspondent

LONDON — The local government elections, which are taking place on Thursday in all parts of England and Wales except London, have acquired a significance far beyond their intrinsic importance. For, instead of just voting for the local candidate who promises the most efficient and cheapest way of emptying dustbins, the electors this year may be deciding also the date of the next parliamentary elections.

The political commentators of all the newspapers have already worked out their own timetables for the next two months. They go something like this: Next Sunday the prime minister, Mrs. Thatcher, will sit down to lunch with her senior colleagues at Chequers, her country residence, and they will analyse the results of Thursday's local elections. Provided there has not been a disastrous showing for the Conservatives, particularly in the urban areas, then in all probability Mrs. Thatcher will decide to call a general election in June.

For tactical reasons, the actual date will not be announced for some weeks yet — but

the commentators are already laying bets on the election taking place on either 9 or 23 June.

It is not usual for local elections in Britain to require this sort of national significance. It is true that last year the elections were held while Britain was actually at war against the Argentine invaders of the Falkland Islands, and this fact produced a surprising upsurge in popularity for the Conservatives. But that was extraordinary.

In recent years, prime ministers who have wished to assess the public mood have paid more attention to the public opinion polls than local elections.

Politicised

In the first few months of this year, however, the opinion polls have shown themselves to be remarkably fickle — or perhaps it is that the public have become fed up with being constantly stopped in the street by young men and women with clipboards and asked how they would vote if hypothetically there were an election tomorrow.

So Mrs. Thatcher prefers to take the nation's temperature by observing how people actually vote rather than by how they give their opinions.

Local government in Britain has become much more politicised and certainly more controversial over the last decade. To that extent, Mrs. Thatcher may well be right in believing that what people think about their

local government is similar to what they think about the idea of government as a whole.

The change took place in 1974. Before then, it was only the large local councils which controlled the big conurbations and the rural counties, that were elected on political party lines. The smaller councils, particularly in rural areas, were the province of the public-spirited independent — the local butcher, the farmer's wife or the retired brigadier — who gave their time and their services quite freely.

The re-organization of local government in 1974 swept that away and created a large number of bigger local councils, which were intended to be more efficient in their use of manpower and technological resources. To some extent that did happen. But along with the gain in efficiency, there was also a steep rise in costs. And the old amateurish, fuddy-duddy local councils were replaced by more powerful bodies of paid local councillors, reorganised on party lines and with large armies of local bureaucrats at their elbows. Local government re-organization had given birth to a monster, and a very expensive one at that.

All of the main political parties in Britain agree that the 1974 re-organization was in many ways a step for the worse. But they differ markedly in the remedies they put forward for putting local government to rights. The Conservative Party, true to its

belief in free enterprise and low taxation, has used its powers since it took over the national government to cut local government down to size. Councils have been encouraged to sell publicly-owned housing, to "privatise" services like refuse collection and road sweeping, to reduce staffing levels and, all in all, to cut costs and prevent rises in the "rates" — the local property tax from which local governments largely financed.

Lower standards

The Labour Party has attacked the Conservatives' policies as leading to a lowering of standards of services, which it says discriminate unfairly against the poor and needy. Labour is also keen, at a time of large-scale unemployment, to safeguard the jobs of workers in local government, threatened by the cost-cutting policies of the Conservatives. The third force in British politics — the Liberal-Social Democratic alliance — tends to offer remedies somewhere in between those offered by the two major parties and to suggest plans for radical reform of local government in the long term.

Thus, there could be far more at stake for the local electors of England and Wales than changing local councillors. They could well be deciding the date of the next general election; but they could also be choosing a national government which could drastically change local government in Britain. It is an unusual burden of responsibility for the local electors.

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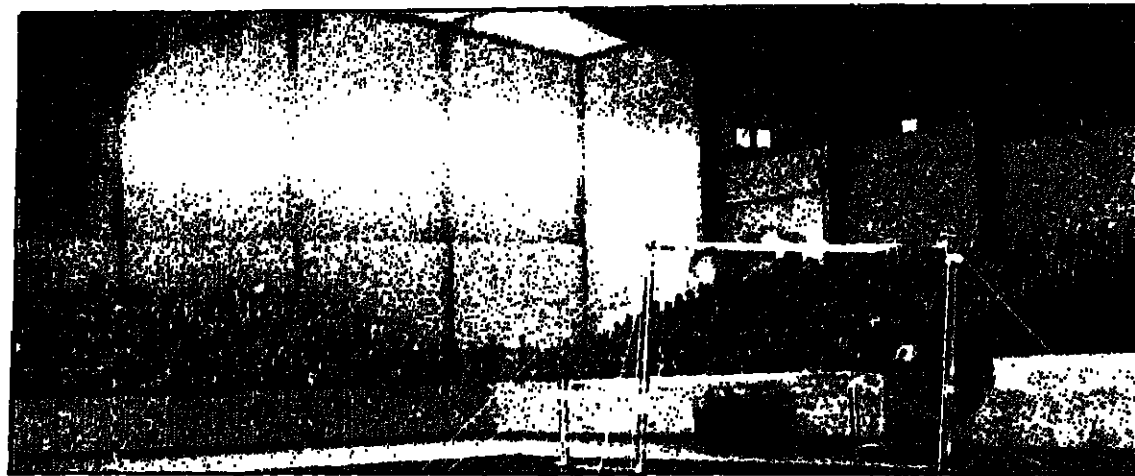
jordan

Book pays for gym

AMMAN (Star) — The JD 480,000 cost of the new Sports Palace gymnasium at Al-Husseini Youth City (Sports City) was partially paid for by the sale of a new book, says Sports City Director Isam Arida.

Mr. Arida, who wrote the book entitled "Hamasa", told The Star JD 33,000 was raised by its sale. A private company, Sadam Industries, also donated JD 120,000. A Housing Bank loan made up the remainder of the cost.

His Majesty King Hussein inaugurated the Sports Palace on 13 April.



Romanian gymnast performs in the new Sports Palace

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From Jordan's universities

U. OF JORDAN

• THE REGISTRY at the University of Jordan has started accepting applications for summer courses. Instructions for the registration which will be done by computer dictate that no student may take more than three subjects in the summer, although some have for courses to complete. The council deans will attempt to resolve the conflict.

• EIGHT ARAB countries have participated in a unique exhibition to portray an example of Arab unity. Egypt, Kuwait, Oman, Iraq, Palestine, Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Syria were represented, and displayed material depicting the progress of each country, its social, economic, antiquities, folk costumes and samples of industry. Egypt exhibited drawings from the pharaonic era, Kuwait displayed folk dresses and samples of industry, and Palestine presented books on the problem of Palestine with some traditional dresses.

• THE DEPARTMENT of student affairs has taken up the matter of problems confronting foreign students, in an attempt to lay down the best curriculum to facilitate their study mainly of the Arabic language. Regulations, housing and privileges, will also be considered. Several interviews have been conducted with both faculty members and foreign students, to identify and resolve problems.

• DR. MAJALLI, the university's president, will attend the 10th anniversary festival at the training centre. The four-day festival includes a charity bazaar, karate and judo demonstrations, gymnastics, a basketball match and races for handicapped athletes. It will end with "Telematch" games.

YARMOUK

• YARMOUK UNIVERSITY and Jordan TV have agreed to co-operate in producing jointly a programme on historical and archaeological monuments in Jordan.

• THE UNIVERSITY plays under the supervision of Dr. Ian Carruthers of the Fine Arts Department, will work with Jordan TV from 14-24 May.

• THE ROYAL Commission has approved the appointment of Dr. Abdullah Jaradat as assistant professor in the Department of Biology.

• THE MINISTER of Culture of Bahrain has invited Prof. Kamal Abu-Deeb to lecture on modern Arabic poetry on 15 May in Bahrain.

• AS FROM this summer, the university will start publishing an academic journal entitled "Al-Khat Al-Yarmouk" (The Literature and Linguistics Series). The journal will be concerned with literature and literary criticism, language studies and the editing of texts. It is hoped to encourage original research.



CONFERENCE OPENS: His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan inaugurates the third Jordanian medical conference on Tuesday. Three hundred and fifty doctors are participating in the three-day conference, including 17 non-Jordanians. Working sessions are being held at the Professional Associations Complex, where a medical and pharmaceutical exhibition is also being held. (Petra photo)

Eximbank seeks business

AMMAN (Star) — A three-day visit to Jordan this week by William Draper III, chairman and president of the United States Export-Import Bank (Eximbank), was intended "essentially" to publicize the fact that the bank is open to further contacts and lending opportunities in the Middle East, Mr. Draper said.

In an interview with The Star, the Eximbank chairman said his bank was not active in Jordan as it would like to be, although it has extended a very large loan to Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airline. During his stay he met His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, and Alia Vice President for Finance Fahd Faneh.

Alia is now considering buying new wide-bodied aircraft, and Mr. Draper's visit was partly to back up sales efforts by the US' Boeing and Lockheed companies.

But he stressed that Eximbank is ready to finance any purchase of US-originated goods and services, by both the private and the public sectors. Its interest rates, which in the recent past were higher than those of competing agencies of the Organizations for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), now compare favourably.

Mr. Draper is the first Eximbank chairman to visit Jordan, although Loan Officer Annmarie Enmet, accompanying him, has been here several times before. The bank chairman has been in office since 1981. Before that he headed a venture capital firm that "organized several hundred new companies" in the northern California area now known as "Silicon Valley" for its advanced electronics industries.

jordan



KING RECEIVES SHULTZ: His Majesty King Hussein and US Secretary of State George Shultz head high-level teams during a meeting on Friday. They discussed a draft agreement on Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon that was worked out between the two countries with Mr. Shultz's help. The secretary paid a two-day visit to Jordan before resuming his mediation efforts and then proceeding to Paris. (Petra photo)

IN BRIEF

• AN UPPER House of Parliament delegation will leave for Baghdad on 16 May under Spener Ahmad Al-Tarawneh to attend the meetings of the Arab Parliamentary Union. Mr. Tarawneh will deliver a speech and will discuss with his counterparts further co-operation in parliamentary affairs and co-ordination of efforts at international parliamentary meetings.

• AMENDMENTS ARE to be made to the written test conducted by the drivers' licensing department, to add questions on first aid. Applicants for driving licences will also be tested in for car maintenance in future, The Star learned.

• JORDAN TELEVISION is considering the possibility of reducing advertising rates for local industries and increasing those of foreign companies. JTV officials say this is part of a plan aimed at encouraging local industries.

• TOURISM MINISTER, Ma'an Abu Nowar has sent a note to the Prime Ministry requesting a JD 3 million loan for the Ma'an baths company to be used to settle earlier loans and to proceed with the project. Mr. Abu Nowar also proposed to increase the company's capital to JD 5 million from JD 2.5 million. Shares made available by this increase in capital will be offered for public sale.

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'Most ancient Jordan' comes to life

By Steven Ross
Star Staff Writer

IF YOU'VE ever wondered what it felt like to use a half-million-year-old handaxe, or what the terrain of Jordan during the Old Stone Age looked like, then the exhibition now on at the American Centre is your chance to learn.

"Most Ancient Jordan: The Past Half-Million Years" is an archaeological exhibition that goes further than anything yet presented to bring to life the Jordanian environment in which man's early ancestors and the first humans lived, their customs, way of life and industries. It does this through a combination of site photos, maps, written descriptions, technical and conceptual drawings and, last but not least, displayed objects from the sites themselves.

Tools

The stone tools (or at least the larger ones) can be picked up, handled and hefted; and to do so gives the modern exhibition-goer a strange sense of kinship with the ancient human (or prehuman) who made and used them. The axes and "cleavers" fit as well in the hand today as they did back then. The sharpness of an edge achieved by chipping a piece of chert with a bone hammer is amazing.

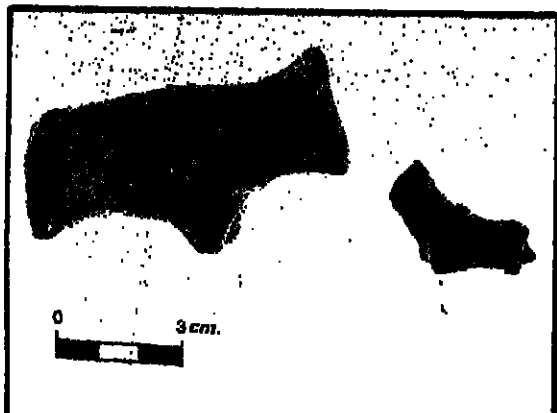
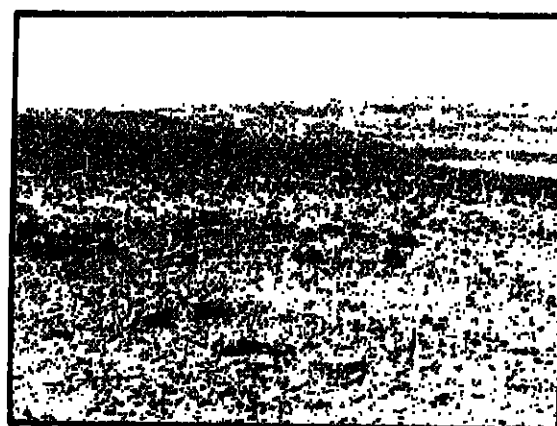
The exhibition is being held under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, and is the result of the combined efforts of Yarmouk University, the American Centre of Oriental Research (Acor), the Department of Antiquities and the United States Information Service.

It is the brainchild of Dr. Gary Rollefson, archaeology professor at Yarmouk, who has lived in Jordan since 1978. Technical object drawings are done by Brian Byrd, and the depictions of Stone Age life and environment by Stephen Hayes, both of whom also teach at Yarmouk.

Six sites, covering the period from



Left: Section of a house, with stone grinder and other objects, from 'Ain Ghazal. Top right: Site photo of the former hunting ground at Jabal Uweinat. Bottom right: animal figurines from 'Ain Ghazal



500,000 - 6,000 BC, are highlighted. Dr. Rollefson admits this comes nowhere near an in-depth treatment of all the Stone Age remains known in Jordan; and the Upper Palaeolithic is not represented. But it covers some of the most interesting sites, and those with which he himself is most familiar.

He told The Star that some sites in the Jordan Valley, not yet reached by survey or excavation, could contain remains 750,000-1 million years old.

'Ain Ghazal

The centrepiece of the exhibition, which is set up in the American Centre's small auditorium, is a glass display

case containing objects found in the recent excavations at 'Ain Ghazal just outside Amman. This Pre-Pottery Neolithic (PPNB) site (7,000 - 6,000 BC) is proving to be very important in understanding the history of Jordan and the whole Middle East during that period, and digging is continuing there.

It is the largest known PPNB town in the region, and was once the home of up to 2,000 people, Dr. Rollefson says. This makes it several times as big as PPNB Jericho. The size of town, which contained many houses built with stone, wood and fine plaster, was made possible by the introduction of farming.

The display case contains beads, bone tools, human and animal figurines, shells and other objects found at 'Ain Ghazal—some of them proving that its inhabitants had long-distance trade contacts reaching as far as Anatolia and the Red Sea. They are being exhibited in public for the first time.

The oldest site represented in the exhibition is Jabal Uweinat, where Dr. Rollefson has led excavations for the past few years. It is situated near what, 500,000 years ago, was a large lake.

The prehuman hunters (Homo Erectus) who frequented the area would slaughter large animals as they watered at the lake. Only primitive handaxes

and cleavers have been found, although the description says that initially there were "undoubtedly" tools such as knives and scrapers.

Remarkable

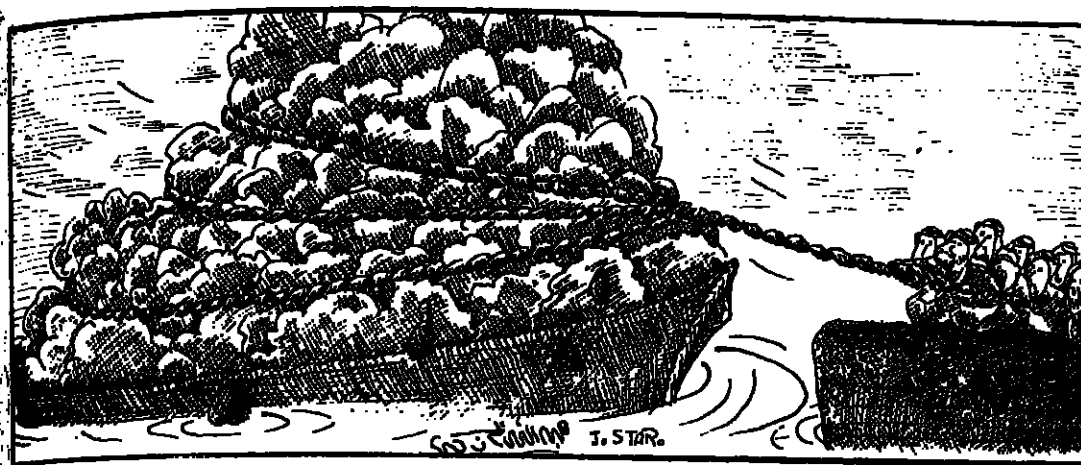
'Ain Al-Assad south of Amman, near Shobak, are both 125,000 years old. The latter is listed as "one of the most remarkable Stone Age sites anywhere in the world." The main centre of activity is associated with flint spread for several hundred metres north and south along the Jordan Valley escarpment.

Here, Dr. Rollefson says, the derelict hunters must have been every year to lie in wait for animals migrating from the valley to the uplands in spring.

The sites of Difa—50,000 years old—and Tabaga, from 10,000 BC, were both discovered during a survey of Wadi Hasa's south bank last year by a team led by Dr. Burton Mifflin. The Difa rockshelter, which may have been a stopping-place for a few families, will be excavated during the summer. The display from Tabaga consists of several small, finely worked blades and other artefacts—kept in the open but not to be touched.

American Centre Director Apster told The Star that the plans to send the exhibition about Europe and the US, under the auspices of the American Schools of Oriental Research (ASOR). This will show the world some of the latest developments in the understanding of our early ancestors, and display the richness of Jordan's prehistoric heritage. The exhibition is open in Amman until 23 May.

As part of the exhibition Dr. Rollefson will also present the following lectures: "Human Hunters and Gatherers" on Monday 16 May at 7.00 pm and "Early village life in Jordan" on Wednesday 18th May at 7.00 pm.



A glass of iceberg water

By Robert Poullot
Star Economy Analyst

WHAT FUTURE is there for agriculture and human beings in a land where a bottle of water costs two to three times as much as crude oil?

This is the kind of dreadful question prompted by the dramatic oil slick spreading over the Gulf area for two months now.

The soaring prices in Qatar, Bahrain and Saudi Arabia came as a shock to many as a critical illustration of how short of water the Arab world is. Not only could the slick choke off the whole Arabian Peninsula from its precious desalinated water supply, but would serve to underline once more how vulnerable the area's agriculture is.

The total area of fertile land in the Arab world is a mere 6 per cent, and two-thirds of that is dependent on rain in winter time.

At present, close to a third of total arable land in the region is irrigated, according to the UN Food and Agriculture Organization. As irrigation has always been the traditional field of investment in agriculture, most of the easily accessible water resources have now been mobilized. As a consequence, new irrigation projects have become increasingly expensive and certain countries such as the United Arab Emirates or Saudi Arabia could face a grave water shortage by the end of the 1980s or early 90s.

While Egypt is putting more and more emphasis on the search for underground reservoirs, like the one discovered in the western desert, and building canals from the Mediterranean, others are looking into more revolutionary techniques to keep the tap open.

One such idea was put by the Tayo Kogyo firm of Japan. It suggests to alter radically the Gulf's climate by adding artificial mountains that could create greater moisture.

The scheme involves erecting a giant inflated fabric shield—10 kilometres long, one km. wide and 0.6 km. high—anchored in the middle of the desert. Water-laden breezes from the Gulf would hit the "mountain", be forced up into the cooler atmosphere and form cumulus clouds which would drop rain on crops and boost mean annual rainfall from the current 300 millimetres to 500 mm.

The other comes from Prince Mohammad Al-Faisal Al-Saud, the eldest son of the late King Faisal and nephew of King Khalid. His idea is to tow icebergs from the Antarctic.

The whole project seems so unreal that even environmentalists shrug their heads in disbelief. But looking at the \$25 billion long-term programme set up by Prince Mohammed himself while he was managing the water desalination authority in Saudi Arabia until 1976, a price tag of \$200 million to \$1 billion to tug a jumbo self-propelled iceberg to the southern tip of the Gulf peninsula doesn't sound so unreasonable after all.

De-salinating vision

The prince, who now heads the Islamic International Trust of Dar Al-Ma'at Al-Islami in Geneva, is a self-made expert on water resources. Recently in Geneva, he told me how he got involved in water problems. It first started in California where he was a student at the Menlo Business School at the turn of the 1950s.

"These are the accidents of life. I was experimenting on (water desalination) in California with my cousin, trying to work out the system," he said.

Upon his return as a college graduate in administration the prince spent a year at Sama, still working on his water desalination study before submitting it to the Ministry of Agriculture.

"It was getting to a point where you could predict that in five years' time there would be a (water) crisis. And that was really what impelled the desalination programme. There were no resources for water, especially in the coastal area where, because of the topography, there is no underground water. It is all basin rock over there. So there wasn't even the chance of digging wells or building dams, since

rainfall doesn't exceed four inches per year on the coast. So there was a crisis and I could see it."

Yet, it took Prince Mohammad another five years before he convinced the authorities of the need to establish and start the first \$20 million pilot plant.

"There was a financial resistance. The minister of finance was against the idea. They didn't want to spend the money and simply didn't believe in the idea."

But, as the prince recalls, the idea was far from new. After all, the first desalination plant in Saudi Arabia had been established in Jeddah in 1890 by the Turks, near what is known today as the Red Sea Palace. "I drank from it myself. They had brought the system on ship and installed it there. And it lasted for half a century. It was maybe primitive, coal fired, but it worked."

But then, in 1970-71, the explosion came through a \$25 billion programme to set up plants throughout the kingdom as one would plant cabbage.

And in 1975, the prince's zeal once again overtook the administration. He had read that in the 19th century, huge blocks of ice were transported to somewhere in Latin America to prop up fisheries along the coast.

The iceberg challenge

After consulting experts on the subject, namely in France where the knowhow on icebergs was most advanced, the prince submitted a proposal to the water desalination authority's board in order to pursue the matter even further. "Again, the reaction was one of disbelief. So I finally resigned and took the initiative myself of setting up a company in France."

It was called "The International Company for Pulling and Exporting Icebergs," and organized several seminars and conferences — the greatest of all in 1977 at the University of Iowa, after which he became known as "Prince of Icebergs."

Today, the company is dormant but research is still going on in the United Kingdom by a few Arab engineers.

"I still strongly believe in the idea." The problem, Prince Mohammed told me, is that it came too early. "But by 1995, Saudi Arabia will face a new water crisis and that's when the icebergs idea could well come into force."

While there might be yet unforeseen environmental hazards, the three major predictable ones would be the effect on large stocks of fish, the creation of fog and the lowering of salt content in surrounding waters. However, the process of desalinating seawater is already a major source of air pollution resulting from intensive energy use.

Before reaching the test phase, Prince Mohammad must overcome four technical obstacles: Insulating the iceberg during transport, towing the iceberg through the open seas, docking it in port and melting it for distribution.

Iceberg insulation, to prevent water loss and dangerous destabilizing movements during transport, is probably the biggest hurdle of all. Several coating materials have been suggested, including plastic, cement and foam.

Another serious challenge is how to tow the iceberg. This could be done, explained the prince, with giant paddle wheels propelled by energy generated through the temperature difference over and below the water. In shallow water, the iceberg would probably have to be sliced in sections.

Docking the iceberg in a port raises the problems of water collection and melting. If the insulation materials are preserved, then water collection becomes easy but the melting pace could be too slow.

It may still just be an idea but Prince Mohammad is convinced that water desalination is already outmoded. And the economics already suggest that one cubic metre of fresh iceberg water delivered to the Arabian Peninsula would be anywhere between two and three times cheaper than through desalination. In addition, the presence of icebergs could create the kind of air moisture required to increase badly needed rainfalls and divert the Gulf's violent storms by releasing pockets of cold air.

Want a glass of iceberg water?

Phosphate seen as polluter

Soft dust is studied

AMMAN (Star) — The government, with the co-operation of the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company, is conducting an integrated study of soft phosphates contained in Jordanian phosphate ore, methods for its disposal and possibilities of its industrial use.

This study is being made mainly in

reaction to the spread of phosphate dust in Aqaba Port and its effect on the environment.

A report prepared by the company states that it will render special attention to the question of soft phosphates, concentrating on marketing, pollution and complaints from buyers.

'82 vehicle imports exceed 20,000

AMMAN (Star) — Jordan Imported 20,664 cars and other vehicles during 1982, official figures show. This total includes both new and used vehicles (up to five years old).

Japan provided 10,536 of the imported vehicles; West Germany 6,881; France 595; the Soviet Union 576; the US 322; South Korea 320; Italy 285; the UK 267; Sweden 164; Brazil 115; Belgium 13; Spain five, and other countries 585 vehicles.

The most common imports were of passenger cars for private use, which numbered 13,715. Private pick-up trucks came next, totalling 1,716. Public pick-ups numbered 700; public passenger cars 421; public heavy trucks 349, and private trucks 108.

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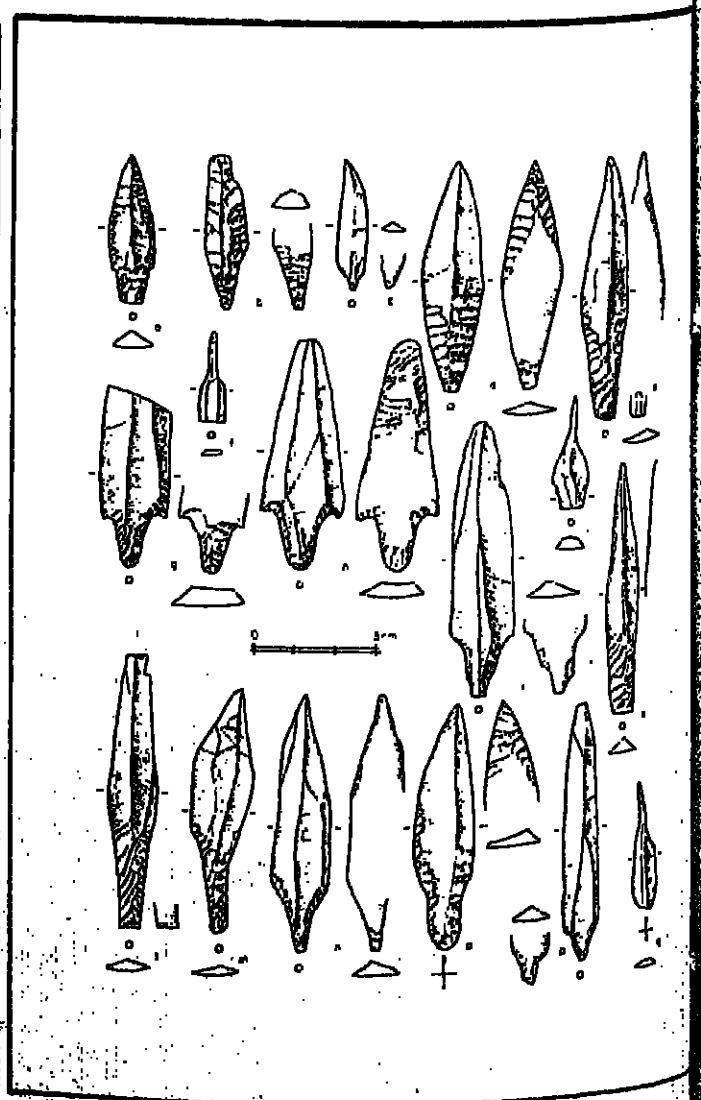
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Golden State finds itself in money squeeze

By William Scoble

LOS ANGELES (ONS) — California is broke and facing a deficit of \$4 billion in the coming fiscal year. It has had to borrow heavily (almost \$500,000) from banks to pay its March bills. Anguished legislators are mooting new "sin taxes" on alcohol and tobacco — even a state lottery — for desperately needed revenue.

Soup-kitchen lines grow longer, churches are turned into doss-houses for the needy, and not far from the state capital itself, a 19th century panacea has been revived — the poor house.

Can this be California the beautiful, 1983 model? Yes. The gilt is off the Golden State and opposition Democrats are sure they know the "Reason Why."

Paying the piper

"We're paying the piper at last for Proposition 13," says Mayor Tom Bradley of Los Angeles. "If we hadn't had 13, we might have coped with recession. Reaganomics, the loss of \$1 billion in federal aid and the worst winter storm damage on record. As it is, we're faced with a wave of crippling service reductions."

Five years ago California voters sent a message that was heard across the US. With a piece of paper known as Proposition 13, they told governments large and small that if they didn't cut taxes, people would take matters into their own hands. Proposition 13 was a voter-approved measure that bypassed lawmakers to halve property taxes and punch a \$7 billion-a-year hole in state revenues. Its architect, an elderly right-winger called Howard Jarvis, became a national hero.

And 13 was only a beginning. California went on an orgy of tax cutting that has deprived its exchequer of \$60 billion since 1978. At the same time, liberal Democrat Jerry Brown — elected governor as champion of an "era of limits" — failed to apply the second part of the Jarvis poultice, curbs on spending. Brown bailed out city and county everywhere

with what Jarvis called an "obscene" budget surplus of \$3.5 billion. When that vanished last year, Brown spent on, borrowing from future revenues, even dipping into special funds, such as the state highway fund, to the tune of \$1.8 billion.

No such gimmicks were available to his successor, Governor George ("call me Duke") Deukmejian, a sternly Reaganomic-minded Republican, who is seeking ways this week to cut further millions from an already well-pruned \$22 billion state budget, over vigorous objections from his Democrat-bossed legislature.

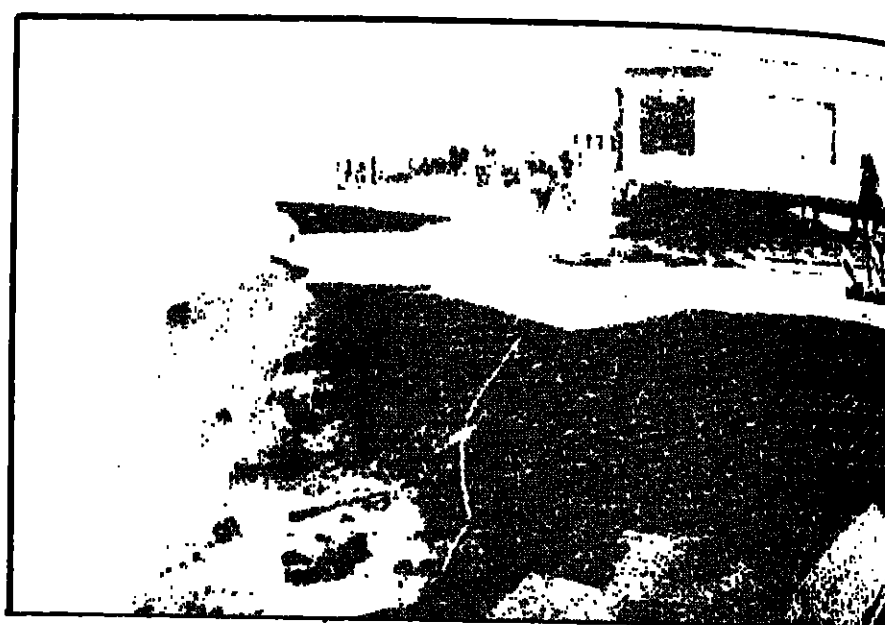
For the largest American state (it would rank about seventh in the world in GNP were it a nation), such a fiscal mess is unprecedented. Accustomed to spending freely, Californians are now devising some bizarre ways of coping with crisis.

In seedy Oakland, across the bay from San Francisco, city fathers are trying to sell their civic hall and museum. In San Francisco, citizens have ducked around a proviso of 13 to raise a \$20 million "special tax" on business, with backing from a state Supreme Court loaded with Brown appointees.

In Los Angeles, where 2,000 jobs have been eliminated, the schedule of street repaving has been changed from every 40 years to ever 120 years. Because there is no money to build new jails, tent camps are rising inside San Quentin and other prisons. In Sacramento, cash aid and food stamps for single adults have been stopped and the needy dispatched to a state-run bed and board shelter — the first poor-house to operate in California since the Depression.

Spending cut back

Deukmejian has ordered across-the-board cuts in all government departments and halted \$370 million of school and public works construction. Cities are raising bus fares and parking fines, and finding a hundred penny-pinching devices. Streets once cleaned weekly now get a monthly lick. Los Angeles school district, second largest in the nation, has lost \$100 million of programmes, and even a \$6 million bill for new textbooks was rejected.



Pacific coastline: California's fabled bounty is crumbling away

Crusty old Howard Jarvis, supported by the Duke's Republican cohorts, insists that blame be placed not on Proposition 13 but on the Brown administration's overspending. "In five budgets since the start of the tax revolt," Jarvis rambled this week, "general fund spending has doubled from \$11 billion to \$22 billion. That's some 'era of limits'!"

Polls show that Jarvis and his Proposition 13 are still popular, but from what Jarvis calls "the tax-and-spend gang" (which means most Democrats) a clamour is rising for new taxes, even for repeal of 13.

A strong coalition of teachers, consumer groups, environmentalists and civil rights is fighting for (1) a state lottery which could pump millions into the exchequer but is denounced by religious groups as "immoral" and (2) a \$2.7 billion package of tax increases aimed chiefly at business and the wealthy.

"We've had it with Proposition 13. Our great state is withering away," says Harry Snyder, a publisher and co-founder of the coalition. "Our kids deserve more than a second-class education. Our old folk need something better than second-rate medical care."

Qatar's steel firm gears up

DOHA (OPECNA) — An upturn in world steel demand by the second half of 1983 was predicted here by Motomi Kano, general manager of the Qatar Steel Company (QASCO).

He told the Gulf Times that Qasco had raised production levels during 1982 of 484,000 tons of steel billets and 470,000 tons of steel bars, with output generally running at 140 per cent of the plant's installed capacity.

Kano said the company sold 45 per cent of its products to Saudi Arabia, Iraq, another strong market, had placed a 100,000-ton order during the year, accounting for 20 per cent of sales.

The Qatar Fertiliser Company (Qafco) achieved record output in 1982, reaching 530,000 tons of ammonia and 660,000 tons of urea — increases in each case of 30,000 tons compared to the previous year.

Managing Director Ingulf Skogestad said that though the fertiliser industry was affected by the world recession, he expected the export market to show signs of improvement midway through the year.

Most of the company's ammonia is exported to India, and the urea is sold mainly to Australia, the United States and Mexico.

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET REPORT

A big gulp of insurance

By Mamdouh El-Ghaly

THIS WEEK was distinguished by one interesting deal when one individual purchased 85,100 shares of Jordan Insurance Company stock for which he paid about JD 936,000 divided among four contracts. As a result, the insurance sector occupied 30.2 per cent of the market, putting it in second place — the highest ranking for six months. Jordan Insurance's share price dropped slightly, however.

The banking sector is still in first place, although the Jordan Insurance deal disturbed conditions and caused the bank's share of the market to drop more than 35 points.

Deviation around the daily handling average reached 45 per cent because of the big deal.

During the week from 3-9 May over 1.18 million shares were handled at a market value of JD 3,035 million divided among 2,220 contracts — a decrease of 15.2 per cent compared to last week. Daily handling came to JD 706,000 showing a deviation of 45.3 per cent, or 10 per cent of total handling.

The banks sector occupied 42.8 per cent of total handling, a decrease of 38.1 per cent compared to last week. Five out of 15 companies occupied 74.7 per cent of the sector or 32.1 per cent of the total. The Jordan-Kuwait Bank occupied 30.6 per cent and 13.1 per cent respectively. Jordan National Bank occupied 19.8/8.5 per cent; Housing Bank 10/4.3 per cent; Jordan-Gulf Bank occupied 7.9/3.4 per cent, and Islamic Investment House 6.2/2.7 per cent.

The insurance sector occupied 30.2 per cent of the market, an increase of 26.3 points. Jordan Insurance, one of 12 companies, occupied 88.6 per cent of the sector or 26.7 per cent of total handling.

Industrials occupied 19.2 per cent of total handling, an increase of 10.6 points. Within this sector five out of 29 companies had 60 per cent of the sector's business or 11.5 per cent of total handling. Jordan Petroleum Refineries occupied 28.2 and 5.4 per cent respectively. The National Steel 10.4/2 per cent; Jordan Tile and Gypsum 8.9/1.7 per cent; Intermediate Petrochemicals 7.5/1.4 per cent, and National Industries 5/1 per cent of total.

Services had 7.8 per cent of the market, an increase of 1.2 points. Two out of eight services companies occupied 57.4 per cent of the sector or 4.5 per cent of total handling. International Contracting and Investments occupied 34.2 per cent of the sector or 2.7 per cent of total; and Arab Company for International Investment and Trade 23.2/1.8 per cent.

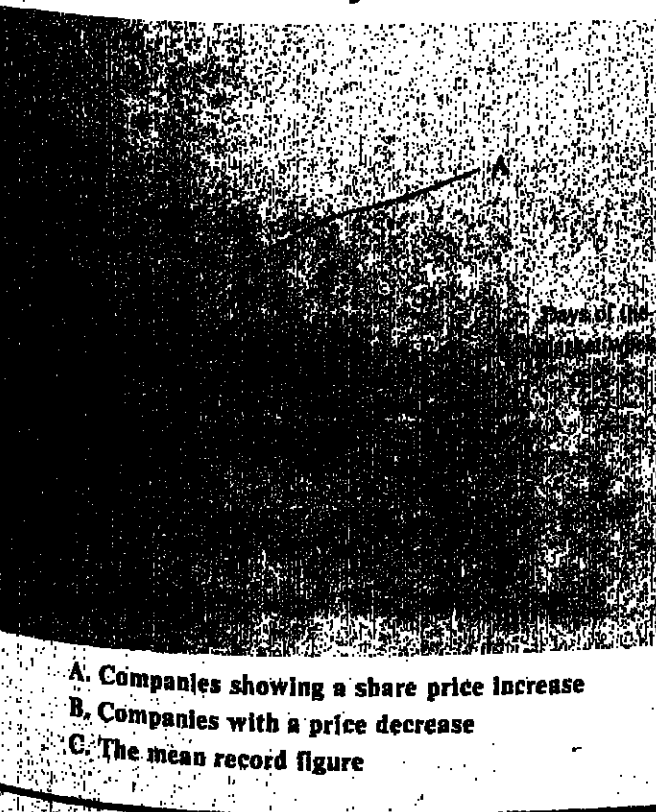
The stocks of 64 companies were handled during this week. Share prices of 19 of them rose including South Cement Company, closing at JD 0.890 up from JD 0.800, Petra Insurance at JD 2,050 up from JD 1,860, Al-Izzah Insurance at JD 4,400 up from JD 4, Al-Mashreq Exchange at JD 28 up from JD 26,500 and International Contracting and Investment, at JD 0.870 up from JD 0.830.

The stocks of 37 companies dropped in price, including the Jordan Phosphate Mines closing at JD 2,350 down from JD 2,510, Industrial, Commercial and Agricultural Company at JD 3,920 down from JD 4,200, General Insurance at JD 3 down from JD 3,200, Jordan-Kuwait Bank at JD 3,920 down from JD 4,140 and the Garage Owners' Federation at JD 10, down from JD 10,500.

Eight companies recorded no change in their stock prices.

The record figure showed a 1.4 per cent decrease for the week. Handling came to 0.7 per cent. In the over-the-counter market more than 843,000 shares were handled, at a market value of JD 762,000.

The weekly record



Job training help mooted

AMMAN (Star) — The Education Ministry and the Vocational Training Corporation (VTC) made international contacts this week to further their aims of training young Jordanians to fill the country's need for skilled workers.

In an agreement signed last Wednesday, the ministry is to get assistance from Danish firm, Dan Group, in operating the Mafraq vocational education institute. The agreement, valued at almost \$500,000, will last 20 months and is financed by the European Community. Dan Group will also train Jordanians in giving vocational education.

VTC Director-General Munther Al-Masri, meanwhile, discussed the possibility of programme financing, with World Bank officials during a visit to Washington. Mr. Masri was in the United States to help prepare for an international vocational training conference in 1985.

Expert advises Jordan on its bee industry

By Hamdan Al-Haj
Special to the Star

AMMAN — The Jordanian beekeeping industry has much potential if handled properly, according to a visiting Romanian expert.

Dr. Oktavia Milea, head of the technical co-operation and foreign trade department of the Romanian Beekeeping Association, told The Star in an interview that to make the industry viable on a large scale modern equipment was needed, along with new techniques, drugs, technical assistance, and training for Jordanian specialists.

Dr. Milea said the Jordanian industry was prevented from becoming more prosperous by primitive equipment, a lack of specialists and little knowledge of bee diseases. Poor technique in selecting queen bees and in harvesting honey — which in Jordan destroys the hive — is also to blame, he said. Out of Jordan's 48,000 hives, only 7,000-8,000 are of modern design.

Dr. Milea's visit, on which he was to watch, advise and give recommendations for Jordanian beekeeping technique, came under a bilateral economic protocol signed on 23 March 1983. He said, "We have come to study the natural bee situation... bee disease genetics, and technology used in beekeeping."

"We plan to establish a national organizational centre for training, extension, scientific research and production materials for the keeper."

On the Romanian industry, he said that his country has about 1.2 million hives and produces 15,000-18,000 tonnes of honey a year, all of which is exported. The whole industry is under public sector control, and has 65,000 workers. Romania has an institute, which encourages apicultural research, studies in agricultural pathology and produces veterinary drugs. Many specialists get doctoral-level training in beekeeping there.

Dr. Mohammad Kamel of the Agriculture Ministry told The Star that honey in Jordan is considered an expensive specialty item, and used by most people only for medical purposes.

Dr. Kamel, who is the head of the ministry's animal production section, listed some of the industry's basic problems as being a low number of beekeepers, a short spring season, lack of modern equipment and the practice of moving hives from one place to another to find flowers for the bees.

Turkey's marginal economy thrives

By Thomas C. Goltz

ISTANBUL (AP) — Some of them train rabbits and pigeons. Some hustle bus tickets or perform acrobatic feats. Some turn weekend fishing hobbies into full-time professions.

Hard times have swelled the small army of Turks living off the marginal economy in this city of 5 million, sending the newly laid-off or those unable to find a first job into the streets alongside the usual force of lottery hawkers, shoeshine boys and fast food vendors.

After the military takeover in September 1980, police tightened enforcement of an often overlooked ban on street pedlars and other hustlers who paid no taxes and were considered a nuisance.

But with unemployment running at around 20 per cent of the 18 million workforce, according to official figures, and 400,000 newcomers joining the job market every year, authorities appear to have eased off.

Fishing for Istavril, a small fish that thrives in the murky waters of the Golden Horn, has become a growth industry during the last year.

Even on the coldest days of last winter, dozens of men could be seen shivering in the morning drizzle on the Galata Bridge waiting for their drop lines to jerk with good news. With warmer spring weather, hundreds of anglers show

up to put food on the table and earn a little extra cash.

"I make about 1,000 lira (\$5) a day," said Ali Aydin, who turned his weekend hobby into a full-time job after he was laid off from his factory job last year.

"That's nearly as much as I was making in the factory, but now I don't have any recreation. Fishing is no fun if you have to do it to live."

Ergun Can, 14, makes his contribution to the limited family income by selling bus tickets at 5 lira (2 cents) over the usual 25-lira (12-cent) charge, clearing 500 lira (\$2.50) a day.

Although tickets are also sold at newsstands, the young polio victim provides a service to customers who don't want to wait in line. He can be found wheeling his hand propelled tricycle over the curbs from the busticket windows in Central Taksim Square back to the crowded bus stops.

Fikret Karaman, 20, who used to work in a garment store, now performs acrobatic feats in Istanbul's well-known Flower Passage, a series of rowdy bistros. Fikret has to compete with groups of wandering musicians, portait drawers and magicians for the clientele's limited generosity.

"You've got to do something to get by," said Izzeddin Senturk, 35, who sells song birds near the Egyptian spice bazaar. Customers are supposed to release the birds after purchasing them, as an act of charity, whereupon Izzeddin tries to catch them again for resale.

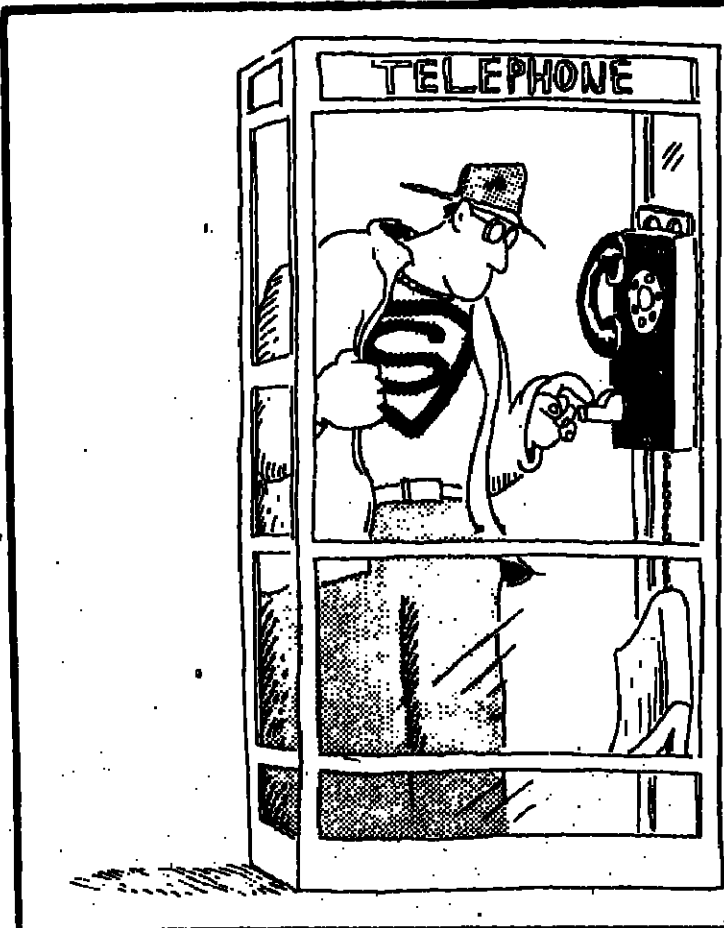
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THE FAR SIDE

By GARY LARSON



IN BRIEF

• LONDON — British companies have picked up contracts in the Middle East worth £13.5 million, the Financial Times reported. The largest of the orders, worth £9.3 million, for an 18-storey office and apartment building, went to a UK-UAE consortium headed by surveyors Widnells and Trollope. The British group Hill and Ay Engineering won a £4.2 million job to install a fire protection and pipework system in an Egyptian textile complex, the newspaper added.

• CARACAS — Venezuela's oil income for 1983 is estimated at \$9.1 billion, Finance Minister Arturo Sosa told Congressmen here. He said the figure was based on average oil production of 1.75 million b/d, including exports of 1.45 million.

• BERNE — The recession took its toll in Switzerland last year, with a record number of 3,488 bankruptcies announced, the Swiss Federal Statistics Office said. The record figure was up by 15 per cent on 1981. All but six of the 26 Swiss cantons, or regional areas, had a higher number of bankruptcies than the year before.

• SINGAPORE — Kuwait's second largest bank, the Gulf Bank, has set up its Asian branch in Singapore because of the country's favourable liability management. The bank's chief executive, Richard Cusack, said that Singapore "provided a good opportunity for liability management because it was a bigger funding centre compared to Hong Kong."

• LONDON — The Arabian Gulf Tanker Charter Market is still experiencing the "enormous" difficulties because of the oil glut and the recession, and hardly any business for larger units has been recorded since the end of March, according to London tanker brokers Galbraith Wrightson. In its report on market conditions, Galbraith said that so many vessels were chasing such a limited amount of work that charter rates had become, to a certain extent, of secondary importance to owners. It noted that in one week only two significant orders had been made, one of 230,000 tons Arabian Gulf-US for worldwide 18.75, and the other of 220,000 tons Arabian Gulf-Japan for worldwide 22.

World Bank, USAID try to help

Pakistan's canals clogged

By John Stokes

LAHORE (ONS) — Pakistan's canal system, one of the largest in the world, is on the verge of collapse.

The system, 40,000 miles long, was built by the British more than 50 years ago and is responsible for irrigating 40 million acres of vital agricultural land.

In recent years it has been extended, so that 73 per cent of the water from Pakistan's five main rivers now flows through the canals. But maintenance has been negligible and millions of tons of silt have now virtually stopped the flow of water.

Pakistan emerged as a model of the "Green Revolution" in the 1960s largely because the canal system was able to provide enough water for the country's phenomenal agricultural growth.

Now experts predict that it will take 25 years to revitalize the system by rebuilding the old canals, and by then the whole process would have to start again.

The canals are made of mud and were never lined with bricks, so

that water leaks from them into the surrounding countryside, raising the water table and bringing infertile ground salts to the surface.

The resulting salinity and water-logging has rendered infertile almost as many acres as the canals are supposed to irrigate. Around Lahore, capital of Pakistan's biggest food growing region, the Punjab, there is now a 50-mile swathe of saline land on which pitifully new crops can grow.

India, Burma and other former British colonies are suffering from the same process but the Punjab, once the bread-basket of the British Raj, has far more canals than anywhere else.

Now the World Bank and US Aid are trying to put together a programme to rehabilitate some of the canals where the water flow could otherwise soon stop altogether.

Economists in Lahore believe that at least \$1,000 million would be required and that kind of money is "just not available," Pakistani officials, meanwhile, "are unaware of the problem although it has been pointed out in countless surveys and reports."

The Irrigation Department is reputedly one of the least efficient of government bodies and rampant corruption among the staff responsible for distributing water to the farmers makes any rehabilitation programme unlikely to succeed.

Unlike many Third World countries, Pakistan has immense water reserves. Huge underground lakes in Baluchistan and Sindh remain to be tapped and the never-ending melting of the Himalayan snows provides its rivers with plenty of water.

Despite the growing salinity of the soil and the choking of the canals, the country is self-sufficient in wheat and has built up a thriving food export business with the oil-rich Arab countries.

But these gains could slowly be wiped out if the canal system fails to provide its flow of fresh water and the peasants now used to moderately full stomachs will see their land dry up and their living standards fall.

As one expert pointed out: "It is not just a question of water and food. The stability of the country could well hang in the balance."

Dr. Issam Sartawi as I knew him

by Michael Adams



Late Dr. Issam Sartawi. He communicated life and optimism

I LAST saw him just over a month ago. He had been speaking at a meeting in London, speaking with all his usual conviction and good humour, although this was just after the disappointment he had suffered in Algiers when he was unable to put forward his own moderate ideas to his colleagues in the Palestine National Council.

After the meeting my wife and I with a couple of friends took him off to dinner. We chose a tiny oriental restaurant in south London, partly because we liked it but also because he was someone who was best kept out of the limelight. Not that he bothered about it himself, or took any but the most obvious precautions about his own safety; but we remembered the fate of his friend and ours, Said Hammami, and we knew — as of course he did — the danger in which he stood, that night and every day and night of his life.

It was through Said Hammami that I first met him. Said had rung me up one day — it must have been three or four months before he was killed — saying there was a friend of his in London whom he would like me to meet. He brought him round, a small very neat figure with a strong profile under a tidy cap of grey hair. Said and I talked and this man just sat there, hardly saying a word, but with a tremendous air of alertness, so that you felt that if he had been asked afterwards what he had been talking about he would have been able to repeat the whole conversation.

I did not see him again until we met at the memorial service for Said Hammami. We had both been invited to speak at the service and for each of us in our different ways it was a moving occasion. I took as my text something that Said had once said about the need, where Palestine was concerned, to arrive at "an informed and moral understanding" of the past. Sartawi, characteristically, turned our attention to the future, speaking of Said Hammami's pioneering work in trying to enlist "all the forces favouring Palestinian self-determination — including Israeli ones — in support of the Palestinian cause". It was to carrying on this initiative that Issam Sartawi devoted the next five years of his life.

They must often have been lonely years, for Issam operated outside the protective framework of the PLO in Beirut, constituting himself a kind of roving ambassador for Palestine. His base was in Paris; but he cannot have spent much time there for he would turn up all over the place at conferences and meetings, and then disappear again until you heard of him having discussions with Bruno Kreisky in Vienna, or meeting the Swedish prime minister, or taking part in a debate at the Oxford Union. One day — and it was this that

he thought the most important part of his work and for which his special gifts so fitted him — he would be meeting the tiny number of free-thinking Israelis who were as ready as he was to break the convention that kept Palestinians and Israelis so tragically apart.

With them, and in particular with two leading figures in the Israeli "peace camp", General Matti Peled and Uri Avneri, he established long ago a relationship of absolute mutual trust. I often saw them together and I shall not forget the occasion during the Israeli invasion of Lebanon last summer when the three of them shared a platform in London and Issam asked me to be the chairman. The cities and refugee camps of South Lebanon were smoking ruins and the Israelis were rounding up Palestinians and taking them away, bound and blindfolded, to captivity — and here were these three who met as friends and put aside all the bitterness and the hatred to speak with one voice about their vision of coexistence between the two embattled peoples.

Everything that he had said about Said Hammami at that memorial service could be said about Issam himself: that he had courage and vision, and that he was ready always to take the unpopular course if he believed it was the right one. Nothing deflected him and he would never allow the many disappointments he had to put up with to discourage him for long. He had given up more than most people for the life of dangerous uncertainty he was leading. But for the predicament of

the Palestinians, he would have been well along by now with his career as a cardiac surgeon, which he broke off in 1967 — when he was engaged in a research programme of his own devising in the United States — to join Fatah and take the first step in that other career which was to bring him in the end to a violent death in the lobby of a provincial hotel in Portugal.

And that was paradoxical as well as tragic, for among all of his countrymen with whom he shared the ambition of being able one day to return to live again in the land where he was born, none pursued that ambition with a more single-minded devotion to the ideal of peace. It was peace, rather than victory, on which he set his sights; and he knew that it was not an easy objective.

He was happily married, which I never knew until my wife drew him out about himself over dinner that night and he told us about his wife, who was from Iraq, and the three children whom he left behind in Paris when he went on his travels. He was thinking of moving with them to England, he told us, and we talked eagerly and half-seriously of finding them somewhere to live where he could find relaxation from a life that was restless and more often than not frustrating and always full of dangerous preoccupations.

MICHAEL ADAMS, a well-known English journalist specialising in Middle Eastern affairs, now serves as editor of Middle East International. He is the co-author of 'Publish It Not', a book detailing UK press bias and coverage of news concerning Israeli actions.

Gulf war in Karachi

By Safa Haeri

THE GULF war between Iran and Iraq came to Pakistan in February as Iran took punitive action against the backers of Iraq. The battlefield was Karachi, Pakistan's biggest commercial city; the warriors were, on one side, Shi'as, comprising about 20 per cent of Pakistani Muslims, and on the other side, the Sunni Muslims, who are in the majority. Most of the Shi'as are in Karachi.

Although underground for some time, this peculiar proxy war did not surface until 20 February, when four explosions rocked French interests in Karachi, including the offices of Air France, the Alliance Française and the residence of the French consul. The French are receiving Saudi funds to supply arms to Iraq

and the French government, which gave refuge to Ayatollah Khomeini, is now giving refuge to Khomeini's enemies.

The Pakistani police arrested at least 12 Iranian, so-called students, five of them members of the staunchly pro-Khomeini Iranian Muslim Student Association. Although a group calling itself the Iraqi Mujahideen has claimed, from Beirut, responsibility for the explosions to "protest" against France's increasing military aid to the Ba'athist regime of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, most observers see the hand of Tehran behind the incidents.

A week before the explosions took place, a powerful Iranian Islamic delegation headed by Ja-

Continued on page 9

12 MAY 1983

Sadat exposé infuriates Egyptian establishment

By Liz Thurgood

THE EGYPTIAN government is reacting with unbecoming outrage to the latest work by Muhammad Helkal, a former Nasser confidant and one of the Arab world's leading journalists.

A rare but critical account of the reasons that led to Anwar Sadat's assassination on 6 October 1981, 'Autumn of Fury', has been banned and its author ridiculed in the media as a racist who probably wrote the book in cahoots with Egypt's arch-enemy, Colonel Qadhafi of Libya. A Saudi paper has been ordered to halt all extracts from the book.

Four floors above the bustling streets of Cairo, Helkal's office is an oasis of quiet — soft lighting (at noon), wall-to-wall carpeting and book-lined walls. From behind his red leather-topped desk, the 60-year-old author obviously relishes the attacks and accompanying publicity.

"Let the people judge for themselves," Helkal says. "Allow the book in." He expected a poor local press but is surprised at "all the insults."

The reasons for the uproar are twofold, believes Helkal. First, "Autumn's" timing: publication coincides with efforts by the former Sadat camp to consolidate their position after the politically embarrassing trial of Sadat's younger brother, Esmat, who was found guilty of amassing a multi-million fortune during the President's 11-year term.

"Sadat's policies (benefitted) a small privileged circle," says Helkal, "and their fortunes must inevitably fluctuate with his reputation."

Second, "Autumn" is savage in its handling of Sadat, particularly his personal life, and by implication those who served under him and the Sadat elite who hold office today.

Helkal describes how in his later years the "pious President", as Sadat liked to be known, rose late, drank a couple of vodkas before noon and made presents of valuable pieces of Egyptian antiquity to friendly heads of state and their wives, including the Shah of Iran, Jimmy Carter, Mrs. Nixon and Tito.

"I honestly tried to give a clear and documented picture as I saw it," says Helkal, a former Al-Ahram editor who broke with Sadat in the wake of the 1973 October war. Some of the more damning material has been extracted from Sadat's own writings, he says.

"Autumn" was conceived during Helkal's th-



Muhammad Helkal: Sadat's policies benefitted a small privileged circle.

ree-month stint in prison during the autumn of 1981. Looking out of his barred window one morning, he contemplated the skies clouding over, realising that autumn — both seasonal and political — was nigh. The manuscript was finished on 30 August, eight months after his release.

Helkal lost 24 pounds in prison — "the food was awful, the lentils full of bugs." Determined to remain trim, he rises early to play between nine and 12 holes of golf before settling down to work at 8.30 a.m.

Helkal's newest project is tentatively called "An Anatomy of the Arab World" — "a political who, what and where we're going to" — which he hopes will be ready for publication in autumn 1984. Next will be "Suez: Thirty Years After." He writes in English, in a neat Longhand, and employs a full-time researcher.

Once hailed as the voice of the Arab world, he appears reluctant to dig too deeply into the post-Sadat years: he bemoans Egypt's lost Arab identity, the failure to make peace and the continuation of Sadat's economic policies.

(Observer News Service)

Gulf war in Karachi

Continued from page 8

including Farsi, a former opponent of Abul Hassan Bani Sadr in the first Iranian presidential elections, had visited Pakistan. He met a number of hard-line Muslim leaders, mostly of the Shi'ite faith which rules Iran. A fundamentalist, Farsi was eliminated from the presidential race because of his Afghan origin. In interviews before leaving for Pakistan, he had emphasised that the aim of his mission was to "open contacts with the Pakistani people and popular centres, to show them on the spot how our Islamic revolution works; also to transfer to them our experience in making revolution and how to exploit interior and exterior policies to that end."

Early in January, Shi'ite and Sunni Muslims battled for days in the streets of Karachi because a new Shi'ite mosque had been set on fire by alleged Sunni provocateurs. Several copies of the Holy Qur'an were consumed in the blaze.

Shi'ite preachers went even further in attacking President Zia ul Haq personally as well as his government, branding them in the familiar terms of Iranian propaganda against Pakistan, as "anti-Islamic and pro-Israeli". Tehran media describe Pakistan and its president as representing the "US front line in the battle against the Islamic Revolution of Iran".

Sunnis were angered by the Sind governor's promises to "satisfy" demands the Shi'ites claimed they had been given. These reportedly included a military tribunal rather than a civilian trial for those accused of burning the mosque. This decision infuriated many Sunni Muslims, traditionally close to Iraq.

Some time before the mosque blaze, Khomeini's personal representative in Baluchistan, Moulana Ghulam Hassan Fazal, was escorted to the Pakistan-Iran border after an official order for his expulsion.

Sunni organisations mounted a counteroffensive, calling for both the resignation of the Sind governor and the expulsion of the Iranian consul-general, Mohammad Ali Sadeghi, from Karachi. They accused Sadeghi of "intervention in the local affairs of Pakistan, support for and encouraging Shi'ite agitators".

During meetings and demonstrations, more than 50 thousand Sunnis shouted anti-Khomeini slogans, condemning him for his "anti-Islamic behaviour".

Oil pumps to resume work

AMMAN — Efforts are being made for the resumption of pumping Iraqi oil to Banlas in northern Syria, informed sources have reported. A superpower, friendly to the Arabs, is said to be leading these efforts between Iraq and Syria. Preliminary results are said to be encouraging. The pumping of oil to Syria was suspended in 1981.

Afghan forces on the offensive

ISLAMABAD — Soviet and Afghan forces are bombarding the Shomali area north of Kabul with an intensity that is unprecedented since the war against guerrillas flared over three years ago. Western diplomats reported Tuesday, Shomali, (16 kms) north of the Afghan capital, was pounded from the air and on the ground, triggering a mass exodus of local inhabitants. The reports said a group of 20 people, including women and children, were summarily shot when they protested to the occupation forces about the severity of the attacks.

Arab Ministers of Culture meeting

ALGIERS — Arab Ministers of Culture meeting here on Tuesday night called for increased efforts to publicise Arab and Islamic cultures abroad and to strengthen relations between Arab and other cultures. The Ministers got acquainted with efforts underway to write the Arab Encyclopedia and a project for the establishment of an Arab Translation Institute.

Arab Bankers Association

LONDON — Syrian banker Bachir Zouheir has been re-appointed chairman of the London-based Arab Bankers Association. He is the Group General Manager of the European Arab Bank. At a recent meeting of the executive, other appointments made included Jordanian financier Hikmat Nashashibi as First Deputy Chairman and Adel Dajani also from Jordan as Second Deputy Chairman, the association said. The Arab Bankers Association, which was established in London in 1980, has 327 individual members based in Britain as well as in many other countries.

Bid to boost Oman's agriculture

MUSCAT — Oman's Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, Abdul Hafez Salim Rajab, left Muscat on Monday for The Hague, on a five day official visit to Holland. From Holland, he will fly to Tunisia on a similar visit. Before he left, Mr Rajab said that the aim of his tour is to familiarise himself with developments in the agricultural and fisheries sectors. He said that Oman was keen to develop both areas and he would discuss the feasibility of utilising Dutch and Tunisian expertise in these fields.

Islamic nations to promote technology

ISLAMABAD (AP) — President Mohammad Zia ul-Haq Tuesday urged Islamic countries to promote modern science and technology in order to overcome what he called their "backwardness in many significant areas".

He was speaking at a four-day international conference on Islamic science and technology cooperation, which opened in Islamabad Tuesday. The conference is being held at the invitation of the Pakistani government.

President Zia ul-Haq said that Islamic nations should not only promote their own science and technology but also cooperate with each other in this field.

He said that the Islamic nations should not only promote their own science and technology but also cooperate with each other in this field.

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Renewed Lebanon violence: A hurdle for Shultz

By Robert Cockburn

DRIVERS IN southern Lebanon take care these days to leave a healthy gap between them and the lines of Israeli military convoys. Lebanese steer clear of the business premises of their compatriots who collaborate with Israel, and even avoid restaurant tables occupied by off-duty Israeli soldiers.

Their instinct for self-preservation is strong in a country where Israeli occupation has created a new cycle of violence, including the killing and evictions of local Muslims and Palestinians by Christian militias free to operate in the anarchy of the south.

This atmosphere of violence and mistrust greeted the American Secretary of State, George Shultz, as he tackled the main object of his Middle East mission: to break the deadlock in negotiations for the withdrawal of Israeli forces from south Lebanon. His task was made more difficult as each incident and fatality served to harden Israeli resolve to retain a major security role in the south, which is in turn deemed unacceptable by the Lebanese government.

It believes Israel's presence is in itself responsible for the fighting. Sixteen weeks of talks involving the Americans and both parties have so far failed to produce a solution.

By sending Shultz into the fray at short notice, following the bombing of the American embassy in Beirut, President Reagan did not

only risk the prestige of his Secretary of State, but of his flagging Middle East peace plan which he is still attempting to revive.

Shultz's chances of success could be measured against the new wave of violence in the south. Last week there were several attacks using rockets, explosives and gunfire, on Israeli positions along the coastal highway between Beirut and Sidon, and in the central, Bekaa Valley.

These attacks are little publicised, as the Israeli death toll since entering Lebanon last June has now risen to more than 475 — a figure reported to be four times that which had been agreed as an acceptable human price for the invasion by the Israeli Cabinet.

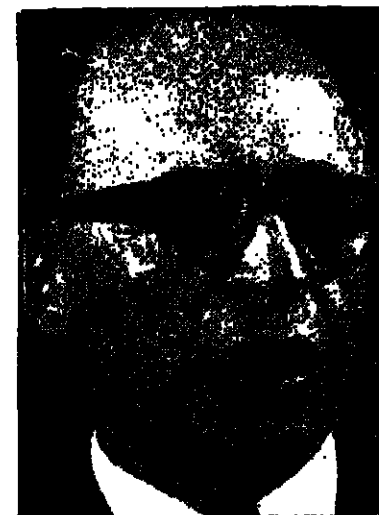
Last week I watched as the charred remains of an IDF half-track troop carrier were cleared up early on a cold rainy morning close to a strongly-fortified Israeli position on the main coastal highway some 16 kilometres south of Beirut at Damour.

Israeli soldiers had gathered in tight nervous groups in the wet, smoking cigarettes and scrutinising each car and its occupants as we passed. The vehicle's burnt tyres left a residue of soot and wire on the road while its broken caterpillar tracks were loaded onto the back of an army truck. The highway south has become a favoured spot for guerrilla hit-and-run operations.

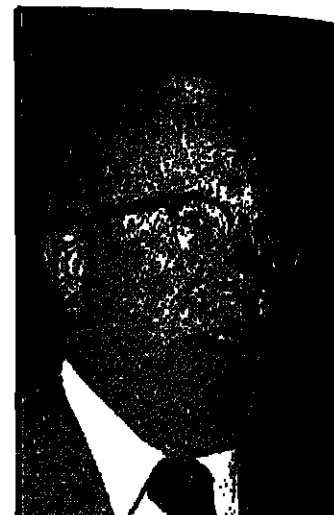
The same morning, Sidon was awoken by the blast of a bomb in the town square. The target was a



Amin Gemayel



Menachem Begin



George Shultz

shop whose owner was said to have established trade links with Israel. Its metal shutters had been scorched black and ripped open into a jagged hole by the blast. Groceries and canned foods spilled on to the pavement and in the rain a pool of blood was slowly spreading across the broken pavement. No one among the small crowd that gathered to stare at the damaged shop front would say what had happened to the bomb victim.

Local residents are too frightened to answer such questions but word was out that another local supermarket owner who deals with Israeli soldiers and sells Israeli products could expect similar treatment.

Explosions rattle windows and

doors around the town with a regularity that no longer causes any great surprise. "You'll know when it is an Israeli target," explained a Lebanese resident, "because you hear the helicopters go in afterwards."

South Lebanon's Shiite Muslim guerrillas are believed to be behind the attacks. This has caused an odd resurgence of nationalistic pride further fired by the statement by Lebanon's President Gemayel last Sunday that he would not sign any agreement with Israel which allowed her forces to remain in control of Lebanese soil.

The wishful thinkers of Lebanon speak of a united army driving Israel out of the country, when in reality the divisions that would

remain after a sudden Israeli withdrawal could provoke even more fighting without proper policing.

President Gemayel wants to see a vastly expanded multinational force, up to 60,000-strong, take on that security role. Israel has shown no great confidence in the present force of American, French, Italian and British soldiers and has come into direct conflict with them on past occasions.

Israel takes the view that the devastation of the US embassy in Beirut is clear evidence that the multinational force is unable even to defend its own small area in the capital.

(ONS)



US Secretary of State George Shultz (extreme left) arriving in Damascus, Syria as part of his Middle East shuttle visit to negotiate the withdrawal of foreign troops from Lebanon. Israel agreed in principle to withdraw simultaneously with Syrian troops Saudi Arabia.

Plot to kill Khadafi uncovered

LONDON (AP) — A Palestinian has been arrested in Tripoli for allegedly plotting to assassinate Libyan leader Moammar Khadafi, according to Libyan radio.

A report monitored here Monday night, said the man, identified as Abd Al-Qadir Musa Al-Khatib, allegedly confessed that he had been recruited by the American Central Intelligence Agency to kill Khadafi.

The man was also reported to have admitted he was a member of the Patah movement and was planning to act under the guise of this affiliation.

Fatah is the name of Yasser Arafat's mainstream faction of the Palestine Liberation Organization. It is the largest of the PLO's eight factions and in the past was thought to account for about 80 per cent of the PLO guerrillas.

Palestinians jailed

TEL AVIV (AP) — An Israeli military court sentenced five Palestinians aged 17 to 21 to prison terms of up to 13 years Tuesday for causing the death of an Israeli woman in a stoning incident.

The three judges said they gave the accused lesser sentences because they are minors.

Pandemonium broke out when the sentences were read, with relatives of the dead woman demanding harsher penalties. One of them tried to assault a defendant and had to be pulled away.

Egyptians celebrate "Sham El Nessim"

CAIRO (AP) — Millions of Egyptians — Muslim and Christian alike — on Monday ate salted fish, onions and coloured eggs in celebration of a spring fertility rite that dates from Pharaonic times.

Crowds converged on the Cairo zoo and other public places throughout the country to celebrate "Sham El-Nessim," or smelling the breeze. Thousands of city dwellers travelled to their native villages and vacation retreats for the day.

In Pharaonic times, the feast was celebrated when day and night times became equal. According to tradition, the salted fish was a farewell to the old year and a welcome to the fresh fish the spring floods would bring. The eggs were considered a symbol of fertility and the onions, lettuce and other greens eaten on that day were believed to bring health and fertility.

In the last century, the day was celebrated on the first day of the "Khamseen," the hot dusty south wind that blows for 50 days beginning in April or May. Today, the "Sham El-Nessim" is celebrated on the Monday after Egypt's Greek orthodox Coptic Easter.

Many Egyptians hold to the myth that the spirit of the "smelling one" tours houses on the eve of "Sham El-Nessim", casting a spell of ill fortune on anyone who smells unclean. Many bathe thoroughly on Sunday and hang bunches of green onions on their doorsteps to ward off evil spirits.

All government offices and private businesses are closed and the president and other top officials make no public appearances on the day.

As with any national holiday, the "Sham El-Nessim" leaves immense traffic jams, accidents and tons of litter.

Cuban army officer captured

ISLAMABAD (AP) — A senior Afghan resistance leader has claimed his group captured a high-ranking Cuban officer three weeks ago when it ambushed a Soviet military convoy in western Afghanistan.

Professor Burhanuddin Rabbani, who heads the Jamiat-i-Islami (Islamic Party), said the Cuban prisoner is being held near Herat, close to the Iranian border, the scene of a recent Soviet bombing.

He was unable however to provide documentary proof — such as a cap-

tured identity card — to support his claim.

Western military analysts in Islamabad expressed scepticism about Rabbani's claim but noted he has a reputation for being reliable while most leaders exaggerate their successes.

Rabbani told reporters it was the first time his group has captured Cuban soldiers and offered to produce photographs later of one who posed himself three months ago to avoid being caught.

Hijack success ends in ban



SEOUL — American military personnel are taking water and soft drinks to those aboard the hijacked Chinese airliner that landed at a base east of Seoul last week. (AP Wirephoto)

PEKING (AP) — The Communist government is so worried by the first successful international hijacking of a Chinese jetliner that it has barred most citizens from flying, informed Chinese sources said.

An internal memo circulated this week announced that from now on only army commanders and government officials at the county level and higher will be allowed to fly.

According to official reports, three of the six hijackers who forced an airliner with 95 people aboard to land in South Korea last week had been engaged in fraud and illegal business as they shuttled air between Chinese provinces.

Ninety-five passengers and crew from the hijacked Chinese airliner left for home on Tuesday after a six-day saga that began with a bloody in-flight shooting and wound up in a marathon South Korean welcome.

Officials praised the spirit of co-operation that resolved the hijack issue and there were predictions it might bring warmer relations between Communist China and fervently anti-Communist

South Korea. Seoul and Peking have no diplomatic ties.

Shen Tu, China's Director of Civil Aviation who came here to negotiate the hijack issue, said on departure the talks in the South Korean capital were frank and sincere and carried out in a friendly atmosphere.

Shortly after the plane left, flight operations at Kimpo, the international airport serving the South Korean capital, said that flight personnel had remained here to take back the hijacked airliner on Wednesday.

The office also said the flight plan filed here listed only Peking as the final destination without stating whether the aircraft would stop at Shanghai. One airport official said that when the plane entered Chinese airspace, it could land at any point desired by Chinese authorities.

Those returning from the hijacked plane included one crew member who was shot in the leg when the plane was commandeered.

IN BRIEF

• LONDON — A sun-tanned Prince Charles and Princess Diana returned to London on Wednesday after a 10-day vacation in the Bahamas, where they relaxed after a hectic six-week tour of Australia and New Zealand.

At the end of her first major tour since she married the heir to the British throne in July 1981, the 21-year-old Princess attracted the same glittering praise she had earned on the tour.

"It's easy to see why the Princess is so popular. At the end of the flight she thanked us all personally," said Peter Shillard, purser on the British Airways Jumbo Jet flight from Miami.

• ISTANBUL — A second hotel fire in three days in this city sent guests rushing into the streets in their night clothes. Firesquad officials reported on Tuesday.

They said all 100 people checked in the Hotel Anka in Fındıklı district were safely evacuated.

A fast-spreading blaze at Hotel Washington last Saturday resulted in 37 deaths, mostly Austrian and Greek tourists, and at least 60 injured.

Officials believe an electrical short-circuit caused Tuesday's fire that started in a ground floor textile shop.

• HOUSTON, Texas — An 83-year-old great-grandmother convicted last year of growing marijuana in her back yard thanked a judge for ending her probation, and invited him to see her garden.

But Laura Ethel Clark told State District Judge Michael McSpadden that one plant — the marijuana she said she used to relieve her arthritis — would not be there.

"There won't ever be any more of that," Mrs. Clark said. "If I can't get any other remedies for my arthritis, I will just go without a remedy."

• SUNDSVALL, Sweden — The Swedish navy on Sunday continued searching for suspected Soviet submarines in Sundsvall bay where sources said as many as 14 depth charges were dropped the day before.

Meanwhile, a Soviet tanker prepared to leave port in the bay, raising fears that a submarine could use the ship as a shield to escape.

• JOHANNESBURG — The government won one of three special parliamentary elections and lost a second as it battled opposition from white voters to a plan to admit Indian and mixed-race representatives to parliament.

Counting of votes from Tuesday's by-elections, meanwhile, was delayed on Wednesday in the critical Soutpansberg district, where Manpower Minister Fanle Botha of the ruling national party was fighting for his political life.

Going into the election, the Nationalists held 114 of 166 seats, the conservatives 18, the PFP 26 and the New Republic Party 8.



PARIS — French President Francois Mitterrand (left) shows the way to US Secretary of State George Shultz on the steps of the Elysee Palace on Tuesday after their meeting. Mr. Shultz attended the Paris session of the ministerial meeting of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development. US officials reacted with caution to the French President's proposal for a conference on reforming the world monetary system. (AP Wirephoto)

Television society glimpses at the future

By Len Roekingham
Star London Correspondent

commercial television in Britain was "a licence to print money"

Spirit of private enterprise

It was inevitable therefore that the present Conservative government of Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, which is even more dedicated to the spirit of private enterprise than its predecessors, should seek to open up the British media even further to American-style television.

And so in the last year, we have seen new licences being granted for a further commercial television channel, for breakfast television and for satellite television broadcasting, with the promise by the Conservatives — if they win the coming general election — to introduce a full-scale cable television network providing all sorts of different television channels for those willing to pay for them.

One would therefore expect the business supporters of these plans to be overjoyed. But they are not. For although the new television enterprises have been constantly in the news in Britain for the past few months, it has not been the sort of news to bring smiles to the faces of bankers and investors.

On the contrary it has been news of disillusionment, financial failure and scandal.

The new phase of television expansion began last year with the launching of a fourth television channel, which was granted to the commercial companies (known in Britain as "independents") to distinguish them from the supposedly dependent BBC. But the timing of the launch was inauspicious, to say the least.

In the middle of an economic recession, there was no surplus of money available for more television advertising and, in any case, a survey showed that the British were watching less television anyway, even before the launch of the fourth channel.

Beaten to the post
Channel 4 has managed to reach only a small minority audience, although the critics appreciate its taste in programmes. The result has been that Channel 4 exists on a bank overdraft and has very little advertising income.

The same fate befell the launch of the commercial network's breakfast television, known as TV-AM. The launch was carried out with an enormous jamboree of publicity, most of it centring on the personalities involved, including the international impresario, David Frost, and the former British ambassador to Washington, Peter Jay.

Unfortunately, TV-AM had been beaten to the post by the

BBC's own launch into breakfast television which had gained a respectable audience of some two million people.

TV-AM has managed to pick up only some 300,000 regular viewers, even after a major revamp of its image and the departure of the famous personalities. It too now exists on a bank overdraft and has had little success at attracting advertisers.

With these bitter experiences in mind, it is no wonder that business circles are reacting very cautiously to the government's plans to licence cable television after the election.

Some City of London financiers have let it be known that they consider it "a licence to lose money". And financial circles are sceptical also of the BBC's plans to begin direct broadcasting by satellite in 1986.

British watch less

The problems are not simply that both of these forms of broadcasting are untried and not wholly successful even in the United States. But they also face competition from the very high quality television networks of the BBC and Independent Television, as well as from the new fashion for video recorders.

Most people who have bought video recorders report that they do not have enough time to watch all the programmes they have either recorded or hired. So what chance is there of even more television outlets succeeding, particularly when the British are watching ten per cent less television, anyway?

Dark Ages

All of this is in many ways gratifying to the BBC and to the older Independent Television companies, who have learned to compete against each other not only for audience sizes but also in quality of programmes.

The success of British television programmes abroad shows that this is not just local reaction, either. It is also gratifying to those people in Britain and other European countries, who would rather not see their own future in the current entertainment habits of the Americans.

One German-born professor living in Britain said that he had been to the United States and seen a version of the world's future, which he was determined at all costs should not happen.

"The television society and the television meals and all that," he said, "are a return to the dark ages as far as culture is concerned." It seems that many viewers in Britain may agree with him.

Barre's ban on luxury goods stirs supporters' disapproval

By Gordon Maclean

MOGADISHU (ONS) — PRESIDENT SIAD Barre of Somalia seems to be courting political disaster with recent decrees that are alienating even his own dwindling band of supporters. Last year his ban on luxury imports brought him intense unpopularity among the people of northern Somalia.

Now his ban on the use of qat, the mildly narcotic leaves which Somalis have been chewing for generations, has made him many enemies throughout the country and brought a real risk of serious disorder if the threatened penalties are enforced.

In a devoutly Muslim country where few people openly defy the religious ban on alcohol, qat has served the Somalis as a convenient way to get "high" and forget the many problems of living in such a harsh environment.

The green leaves and stalks, which contain a milky alkaloid stimulant, are imported in vast

quantities from neighbouring Kenya (where the drug is known as miraa by those growing it on the slopes of Mt. Kenya). It is also smuggled in from the Harar mountains of Ethiopia.

Now the tens of thousands of chewers in Somalia who do not immediately stop their habit face a jail sentence of up to five years, with as many as 10 years of a second offence. Those Somali farmers able to grow qat have been warned that their farms will be burnt by the security forces.

Most alarming, as far as the average Somali is concerned, is the provision under the new decree for informers to be paid rewards for reporting on their friends and neighbours.

Strict rules

Although the party propaganda machine in Mogadishu reports that the entire 4,500,000 population are behind President Barre's latest ban, and thousands of the party faithful turn out daily to demonstrate against qat, there have been violent protests and even some rioting in places where offenders have been arrested.

Long-time foreign residents here predict that this might be the straw to break the camel's back — in this case Barre's 14-year tenure as President of this military-ruled republic in the volatile Horn of Africa.

Last year Barre's ending of the so-called franco valuta system almost toppled him. Many of his influential friends in the north turned against him when they found that their businesses were being ruined by the sudden stoppage of the flow of luxury goods from oil-rich Arab States across the Red Sea.

Irrked by the activities of the Western Somali Liberation Front guerrillas brought in from the Ogaden to help police the restless north, many inhabitants lent their support to the Ethiopian-backed Somalia National Movement in its struggle with other anti-Barre elements against the Barre regime.

The franco valuta system began as a concession in 1976 to the "camelings" of Somalia who had built up a booming trade in exporting camels for slaughter to Saudi Arabia.

They were allowed to send home goods bought with hard currency in Saudi Arabia and were charged only a token customs tariff. Once Somalis began to emigrate in large numbers to Saudi Arabia and other oil States, the franco valuta system got out of hand.

Although the intention was to encourage the emigrants to send home rice, other foodstuffs and clothing in short supply in Somalia, the trade soon switched to high-priced luxury goods such as refrigerators, stereos and other electronic equipment.

Emigrant's families receiving these expensive items quickly became thriving traders in Somali towns where the resale value is at least 10 times the original price because such goods had been unobtainable in poverty-stricken Somalia for years.

The last straw

It is estimated that a third of the work force in northern Somalia is now in Arab States across the Red Sea and their remittances support their extended families in a

style undreamt of, especially by those who were former nomads in the Ogaden.

President Barre risks widespread opposition from Somalis when he imposed strict rules dictated by the IMF to protect the country's economy on a sound footing. In addition to the sudden stoppage of luxury imports, he also had to introduce two currency devaluations, bringing the Somali shilling down from six to the dollar to the present 15 to the dollar.

There have always been plenty of good reasons for banning qat. Barre's timing was wrong. The habit undoubtedly has a bad effect on industrial and agricultural productivity — a matter of some concern to IMF advisers.

Qat-chewing is also a matter of concern to most families in Somalia and women's groups have several times appealed to the Government to ban it. They claim it destroys families because husbands squander their money on the drug. Now qat users will have to dig deeper into their meagre wages to buy the stuff on the black market.

Peace marchers evicted as mixer lorries roll in

By David Willey

COMISO (ONS) — THE PEACE marchers have been evicted by police from around Sicily's nuclear missile base and roundly condemned from the local church pulpits. Cement mixer lorries now rumble in and out of the gates unimpeded as preparations go ahead for the reception of 112 cruise missiles and 4,000 Americans to man them at the end of the year.

In the small agricultural town of Comiso (pop. 28,000) life goes on apparently unaffected by the prospect of this corner of south-east Sicily becoming a prime nuclear target.

Comiso's Roman Catholic parish priest, Don Giovanni Bagaglia, was among the first to learn of the decision to base Nato missiles in Comiso. Members of his family used to rent land at the former airport where the base is now taking shape. They grew vegetables there, so they received warning that their lease was to be terminated. Don Giovanni said the decision caused alarm and anxiety, but what he really deplored were the foreign peace marchers who had invaded Comiso.

The peace people have brought a bad moral example with them, drugs and prostitution, while the Americans are mostly going to be highly qualified personnel, not just ordinary soldiers," he said.

The ordinary people of Comiso had seen they were being manipulated by the appearance of anti-Reagan posters and red flags. "The choreography is clear," he said.

Just down the road at the first-floor offices of the Committee

for Peace, 25-year-old Marina Pellino from Palermo denied that the Communists were running the peace marches. "More than 12,000 people of the town have signed a peace petition," she said. But she admitted it was difficult to persuade local people to take action. "They say there is nothing they can do, that all the decisions are taken above their heads in Rome."

"The police here treat protesters very roughly. One English girl had her arm broken when the women's group were evicted from the missile base. The Italian police are not trained to deal with a non-violent protest. We are anxious not to criminalise the protest movement and get on the wrong side of the law."

Peace petition

At present there are only two protesters detained in the local jail in nearby Ragusa, a 53-year-old West Berliner and a 30-year-old man from Turin who was arrested when he refused to obey a police order to leave Sicily. Both were accused of illegal entry into a military area.

The Americans' initial attempt to "integrate" with the locals has not been successful. A United States Air Force press officer wrote to his counterpart in Ragusa, asking for details of social and cultural activities. Ragusa, which is run by a Communist administration, sent back a snooty reply.

"I have nothing against you personally," it said. "I know how sympathetic the Americans are. I worked as an interpreter for them when I was a boy in 1943 when the Americans landed in Sicily. But our civilization of horticulture is completely opposed to the anti-civilization of missiles." (The town of Ragusa declared itself last year to be a nuclear-free zone.)

A former Communist Mayor of Comiso, Giacomo Cagnot, visited

the United States to drum up support from the American nuclear freeze movement for his Comiso peace committee. Many of the locals in Comiso are turning their thoughts to forthcoming local government elections when the Communist will be seeking to maintain their position as the leading local party with 43 per cent of the votes.

"You can bet your life there'll be a flood of dollars from the United States to support the anti-Communists in Comiso," a Communist worthy told me.

Crops still good despite deluge

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP) — An unseasonal deluge has hit Bangladesh's winter crop hard, but the yield still should be one of the best ever and help offset last summer's drought-stricken harvest, officials say.

Almost every day for about three weeks, while farmers were supposed to be harvesting their crops, heavy rain has fallen on this small agricultural nation perched atop the Bay of Bengal.

Officials agree it is too early to fully assess the damage, and estimates vary. Agriculture Minister Obaidullah Khan said as much as 50,000 acres may be affected, while Food Minister A.G. Mahmood said it could reduce the rice crop by 20 per cent. The winter wheat crop already is in.

"I expect a crop of about 3.5 million tons of rice," Khan said. "I was expecting more, but we will lose a couple of hundred thousand tons."

"Khan's prediction is accurate: the winter rice crop will be a record, exceeding the 3.1 million tons harvested last year."

tal, there seems to be no end to a cycle of bombings, arson and stabbings. Families living on the estate tend to be mostly Bengali. They are employees of Indian Railways and are liable to be moved from one state capital to another in the course of their work. They could hardly be construed as a threat to the Assamese, and yet the Assamese opposition has never denounced the violence against them.

Assam, because of its great natural wealth — fertile land, tea plantations, oil — has traditionally attracted workers from the nearby Bengali speaking areas. At the turn of the century these outsiders sought work as agricultural labourers and they were welcomed by the Assamese landlords.

Resentment began to simmer only later, after independence, when the Bengalis sought to improve their economic and social status. The situation was exacerbated in 1971 when an estimated one million refugees poured into Assam from Bangladesh.

In more recent years Bengalis living in Assam have tried to consolidate their position by registering as voters for state and national elections. It was this manoeuvre which the Assamese opposition has resisted and which was the immediate cause of last February's violence.

Bengalis trying to register and then cast their votes for the state election in which Mrs. Gandhi's Congress Party was returned to power, were in many instances forcibly prevented from doing so. Bengali homes were attacked and looted.

The Bengalis have not been slow to react to the violence. At Chamrhat, about 50 miles from Gauhati, where the first serious pre-poll rioting erupted, the Bengalis attacked Hindu villages. They were determined to put their votes in order to register themselves as citizens.

The Bengali strategy at Chamrhat was to attack at night. The same tactic was repeated a few days later in the Darrang district of the Brahmaputra valley.

There have been repeated instances where Indian Bengalis have been the victims of mindless violence. At the Malignon railway housing estate on the outskirts of Gauhati, the state cap-



Mrs. Gandhi — still faces problems in Assam.

By Anand K. Sahay

ASSAM (ONS) — Feelings are still running high in India's Assam state where an army-imposed peace has resulted in a temporary truce between the two main communities there, the native Assamese and Bengali-speaking immigrants who are considered outsiders.

In armed battles which raged across Assam during February and March, at least 3,000 people died. Calm has now been restored but the underlying problems remain.

The Assamese underground claim they oppose only those Bengalis who have been crossing into their state from neighbouring Bangladesh. They belong to both the Hindu and Muslim faiths.

But in fact the Assamese, supported by fellow tribals, are opposed to all Bengalis, regardless of their country of origin. They see them as "job stealers" and a threat to local Assamese culture.

There have been repeated instances where Indian Bengalis have been the victims of mindless violence. At the Malignon railway housing estate on the outskirts of Gauhati, the state cap-

Heroes' land:

Making a monumental journey in time

By Richard Hall

HARARE, Zimbabwe — From World's View to Heroes' Acre is a 250-mile journey across the heart of Zimbabwe. Only by making it can you start to understand the country's present ferocities, because it is also a trip through time, from the past of Cecil Rhodes and Chief Lobengula to the present of Robert Mugabe and Joshua Nkomo.

Both places are national shrines, exalting a victory through force of arms. World's View, in the Matopos hills near Bulawayo, commemorates the white man's conquest of Rhodesia, the land named after its founder. Heroes' Acre, on a hill outside Harare (formerly Salisbury), is the still unfinished pantheon in memory of 7,000 or more black guerrillas who triumphed over the white settlers to transform Rhodesia into Zimbabwe.

That arch imperialist Rhodes, who named his fellow Victorians to beware of the "yellow peril", would have felt all his forebodings fulfilled could he have seen Heroes' Acre. It was designed for the Zimbabwe government by a team of North Korean specialists in such "inspirational" monuments, and it looks like it.

The ceremonial area is dominated by a bronze relief of freedom fighters embracing one another, or waving rifles. Women guerrillas hold their arms to children, and youths march forward with banners. The enemy, needless to say, is cringing.

Higher up the hill is a piece of massive, socialist statuary, and above all else a concrete column holding a glass "flame" that shines at night to the distant capital.

But in the Matopos, nature provides most of the inspiration for World's View. Fantastic piles of rocks surround the grave of Rhodes and other white founders of the country, including the infamous Dr. Starr Jameson.

Carved on a rock are the words: "This ground is consecrated and set apart forever to be the resting place of those who have deserved well of their country."

One monument, more than 30 ft high, is to the 35 men of the Wilson Patrol who were "big game" singling "God Save the Queen" — by Ndebele warriors in 1893 while trying to capture the fugitive Chief Lobengula.

The bronze bas-reliefs of the doomed patrol give it a curious similarity to the work

of the North Koreans at Heroes' Acre. But whereas the whites only lost a few hundred casualties in asserting their control of the Africans, the guerrillas (and the civilians "caught in the crossfire") had around 30,000 casualties.

In their first colonising trial of strength, Rhodes and his pioneers used Maxim guns and repeating rifles against the spears of the Ndebele and Shona tribesmen. In one encounter, 1,000 Ndebele died for the loss of six white troopers.

Yet the whites liked to feel, in the imperial heyday, that World's End was somehow a symbol of reconciliation with the black majority. It was here, during the 1896 rebellion, that Rhodes made peace with the chiefs of Matabeleland. When he was buried at World's View in 1902, the assembled Ndebele gave him a royal salute: "N'kosi!"

Mzilikazi, founder of the Ndebele nation, is buried in the Matopos. However, there is no grave for Lobengula, an immensely fat man who suffered from gout and had to be wheeled around in a barrow. After his flight from Bulawayo he died and was buried in some lonely spot near the Zambezi river.

Historically minded Zimbabweans may discern some likenesses between the flight of Lobengula and the very recent drama of Joshua Nkomo's escape in fear — as he claimed — of his life. Once again, also, the Ndebele are facing heavy odds. But the enemy is no longer white: they are harassed by soldiers who are "predominantly Shona" — their traditional rivals.

The Fifth Brigade, sent down to wipe out the rebels or dissidents of Matabeleland was created by the North Koreans and very much expresses the millenary of the Heroes' Acre monument they designed as well. But for once, the British have no direct role at a critical phase in the history of this country.

Their instructors have trained the rest of the Zimbabwe National Army, but feel exceedingly happy to be on the sidelines this time.

In olden days, the Ndebele could turn to the ancestral spirits which guarded the grave of Mzilikazi. But the African faiths have faded and the people of Matabeleland do not really identify with the new spirits of Heroes' Acre, far away in Harare.

Most of the Zimbabwean leaders already buried at Heroes' Acre belonged to Robert Mugabe's Zanu party. Only one, George



Siundika, had been a member of Nkomo's Zapu.

I went to Heroes' Acre with one of Mugabe's ministers. The place was well protected, and on the way up the tarred road we were stopped by a soldier who stuck his gun in the car's front window. When he realised that there was a "big man" on the back seat he stamped frantically to attention and waved us on.

At the top a party was waiting: freedom-fighters from Swapo, which is fighting against South Africa to liberate Namibia. The minister told them proudly how Mugabe's cabinet had overruled certain white civil servants who had said that the memorial was too big and costly.

"So we said to these civil servants: what about Nelson's Column and Trafalgar Square? With lions, and Britain does not even have any lions." This went down splendidly.

The minister also had some sport with the idea that Ian Smith — if he so wished — might in due course be buried among the black heroes. Letters from whites have indeed been appearing in Harare newspapers

arguing that Heroes' Acre should also be regarded as a memorial to those white soldiers who died fighting vainly to keep the name of Rhodesia on the map.

Perhaps it will become so, eventually and all tribes and all races will look to the hill outside Harare.

However, a keen nostalgia still clings to the World's View (the place is lonely now! few people venture up into the Matopos for picnics and hikes, because of the "security situation".)

When Rhodes was buried, some verses were written for the occasion by Rudyard Kipling, the poet of empire. The last two lines read:

"Living he was the land, and dead
His soul shall be her soul."

But the World's View of Kipling could not foresee a time when black men would be in command.

Observer News Service

Opec picks up the pieces after price drop

VIENNA (OPECNA) — The 13 OPEC member countries are now counting the cost of the historic agreement to cut the price of oil to \$29 per barrel and limit production to 17.5 million barrels a year.

Likely to be among the worst hit financially is Venezuela, which could suffer a \$1.8 billion yearly decline in its oil income at current prices, according to preliminary official estimates.

Industry sources said the new Opec agreement could spark a drop of \$1.50 to \$2 a barrel in Venezuela's average export price and a production decrease of 250,000 to 300,000 barrels a day (B/D).

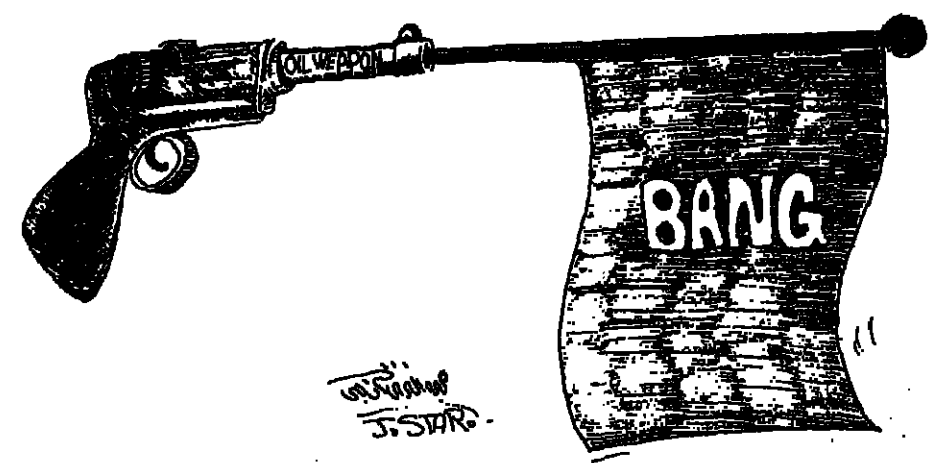
The sources pointed out that before the latest price accord, Venezuela had based its budget on receipt of two million B/D, exports of 1.6 million at an average price of \$27.68.

Now, with an assigned quota of 1.7 million B/D, the country would have around 1.3 million B/D available for export after meeting domestic needs.

Venezuela's marketing position has been strengthened somewhat by an agreement with OPEC member Mexico to share, rather than compete for, the Eastern United States residual market.

Reports from Indonesia, Opec's most populous member, suggest the government will lose \$1 million a year in revenues unless new financial measures are introduced.

Hamzah Hagi, deputy Chairman of the parliamentary commission on State Budget Affairs,



he said it would be hard to avoid a revision of the 1983-84 budget.

He said the fact that Opec had succeeded in reaching an accord was heartening, but the price reduction was "worrying" some 60 per cent of revenues from the state budget had been expected to come from oil exports at the old price of \$34 a barrel.

Hamzah said if the budget were to stay as estimated, ways of offsetting the \$1.4 billion short-

fall would have to be found. In that situation "revenues in the form of foreign loans would take on added significance."

On the positive side, he said the Opec oil price cut would stimulate a recovery of the world economy, with improved prospects for the exports of developing countries such as Indonesia.

In Tehran Prime Minister Hussein Musavi said the price decrease would not have a "determining effect" on Iran's economy.

Statistics compiled from Bank of America figures show that the 13 OPEC countries stand to lose a total of \$5.65 billion annually for each one-dollar drop in the price per barrel (based on current production levels). This would mean a total annual loss of \$28.25 billion as a result of the London agreement.

The breakdown of losses per one dollar cut reads: Saudi Arabia \$2.2 billion, Venezuela \$565 million, Iran \$530 million, United Arab Emirates \$400 million, Nigeria \$383 million, Libya \$365 million, Indonesia \$310 million, Iraq \$266 million, Kuwait \$248 million, Algeria \$183 million, Qatar \$113 million, Gabon \$47 million and Ecuador \$40 million.

For non-OPEC oil producers Mexico, Britain, Norway, Oman, Malaysia, Syria, Canada and Egypt, the total losses based on a similar one-dollar per barrel price drop — add up to \$1.48 billion.

The new price structure may mean a saving for many other developing countries. Brazil, for instance, which imports almost two-thirds of its petroleum and has blamed high oil prices for its current economic difficulties, may save a billion dollars this year by cutting its crude bill to \$6.6 billion.

The Jerusalem Star

Published every Thursday in Amman by the Jordan Press & Publishing Co. (Ad-Dustour)

Director General & Editor in Chief
Mahmoud El-Sherif

Responsible Editor
Abdel Salam El-Adawneh

Editor
Osama El-Sherif

Managing Editor
Steven K. Riss

Managing Director
Tawfiq Khamis

Director of Advertising
Youssef Amman

All Offices: Ad-Dustour Building, Al Hussein Ibn Ali Street, Shmeisani, Amman, Jordan.
P.O. Box 591, Telephone: 664 153 (6-line exchange); 664 151, 2, Telex 21392 MEDIA JO

Wisdom of withdrawal

WHATEVER THE OFFICIAL Syrian excuses for rejecting flatly the proposed settlement between Israel and Lebanon on the withdrawal of all foreign troops from Lebanese territory, they are not enough to justify their unwillingness to abide by it. In a statement given by a high Syrian official, it was said that the American-negotiated and sponsored agreement will only add glory to Israel's invasion of Lebanon. Surely this is not the time to air such rhetoric, when the sovereignty of an Arab country is at stake. Syria's rejection of the peaceful settlement only strengthens previous doubts — and Israeli accusations about Syria's motives and intentions in Lebanon.

In the shadow of Arab weakness it is only fair to give moral support to the Lebanese government in its tedious efforts to retain sovereignty over its territory and to rid itself of the chaos that ruled Lebanon for the last seven years. If the Arab countries, especially Syria, were unable to repel the Israeli invasion of Lebanon last year and then stood aside while thousands of Lebanese and Palestinians were being massacred, then the least and the most ethical thing they can do is to bless Lebanon's decision to accept the formula presented by Secretary of State Shultz, for complete withdrawal.

In a statement read on Israeli radio this week, Israel gave Syria an explicit ultimatum, saying that rejection of the Israeli-Lebanese agreement will leave no other option but war in the Bekaa Valley. The statement said that Israel no longer sees any need for its troops to stay in Lebanon, since it cannot protect them from attacks. However, Israel will not withdraw from Lebanon until it receives guarantees that Syria will do the same. If Syria refuses, as it did this week, then Israel will have to do the job for the Lebanese.

If a new war should break in the Bekaa more innocent civilians will be killed and more destruction will be brought to Lebanon and probably Syria. Surely the Syrians must see the wisdom of leaving Lebanon peacefully rather than being drawn into war with Israel, or giving the Israelis the necessary pretext to stay in Lebanon forever.

Too little, too late?

THE CURRENT agricultural credit course in Amman, sponsored by an FAO branch organization, illustrates a growing awareness in the Arab world of the importance of this crucial sector.

Twenty-five participants from Arab countries, under the auspices of the Near East and North Africa Regional Agricultural Credit Association, are learning of ways to find, and repay financing for agricultural projects, and of the role agriculture has to play in their countries. We applaud this effort...but it is our fond hope that it will not prove to be too little, too late.

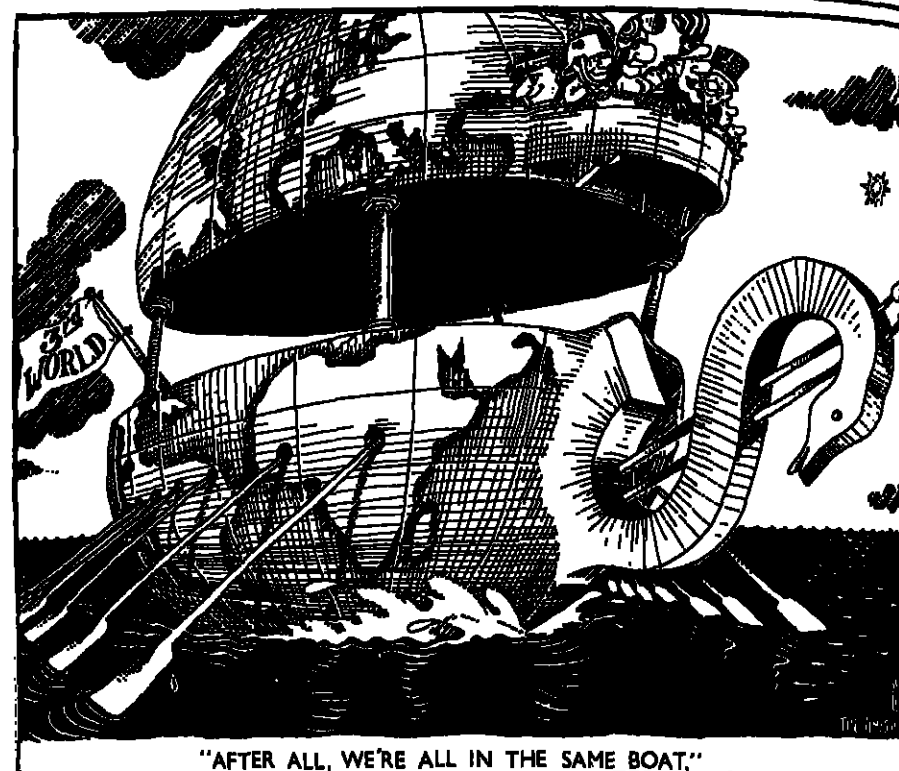
In the past half-decade Jordan has begun to make significant strides in agricultural development, particularly in the Jordan Valley. The Jordan Valley Authority has made available thousands of dunums of newly-reclaimed land for farming; large new water resources have been tapped, and new irrigation methods introduced. More recently, attention has been focused on the potential of rainfed farmland in the hilly areas, and cattle breeding. The Agricultural Credit Corporation is mobilising low-interest credit for small entrepreneurs.

However, a glance at the planned investment by sector under the 1981-85 socio-economic development plan shows us that agriculture is to get JD 214.8 million — a mere 8 per cent of the total investment. Mining and industry together are allocated 30 per cent of the total, which highlights the emphasis on developing a solid industrial base.

Water development, of course, benefits the agricultural sector greatly, and these account for 20 per cent of investment. But with the rapid growth of our cities and industry, more and more of the water resources projects that were originally intended for our farms are diverted to domestic and industrial uses.

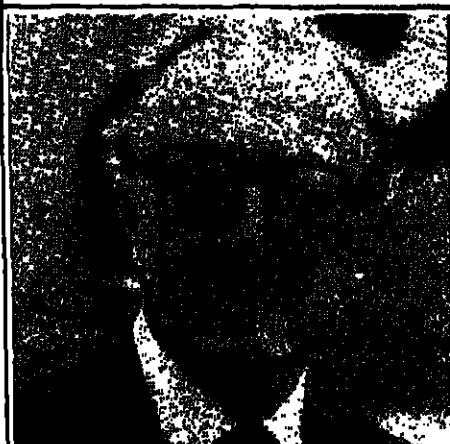
It is undeniable that to stand firmly on its own two feet, Jordan needs to do its utmost to strengthen all economic sectors and introduce new profitable industries. But in the process, we must not forget that we have always been an agriculture-based economy. In particular, the rapid growth of towns and factories should not be allowed to proceed unchecked to the extent that most of the country's finest farmland is lost under a huge expanse of pavement.

Jordan and all Arab countries, facing what has already been dubbed the "Food Crisis", need to pick their path on the rocky road of development with extreme care.



QUOTES

"I regret that the normal method of historical verification has been sacrificed to the perhaps necessary requirements of a journalistic scoop." — Lord Dacre of Glanton (Hugh Trevor-Roper), British historian, on the alleged Hitler diaries.



Lord Carrington

"Indiscriminate sanctions against the Soviet Union are neither necessary nor desirable. If they did not work against Mr. Smith in Rhodesia they are unlikely to bring down the Soviet Empire." — Lord Carrington former British Foreign Secretary.

"It is not going too far to say that ACDA would be an international joke were it not that the situation is so tragic." — Paul Warnke, former director of the US Arms Control and Disarmament Agency.



Ralph Nader

"If you go the corporate way, you're going to waste very valuable talent between your ears and your heart." — Ralph Nader, US consumer champion.

"Two questions have always worried the Russian intelligentsia: 'Who is guilty?' and 'What is to be done?'" — Alexander Boris, Russian journalist.

"History tends to prove that faith is reborn from its own ashes." — Graham Greene, British writer.

"In the end the scales have to come down on the side of deterrence. It is much better that spying should never start than that the spies should subsequently confess." — Lord Justice Lawton, refusing Geoffrey Prime leave to appeal against his 35-year sentence, British Court of Appeal.

Letters

Webster is not the only one...

To the editor:

Under the title "ADC works to earn ethnic justice" (28 April) Lella G. Deeb produced a full article about the roots and sources of discrimination in the United States, how the Israeli lobby works beat about the bush, and finally how a United States Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) stingy and bitter operation brought the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC) into existence.

What concerns me is that the article confined and restricted itself to the notorious, obnoxious and delusive definitions of the noun (Arab) in Webster's dictionary only, while other low, base and contemptible meanings exist in other English dictionaries, such as Cassell's dictionary (ed. 1949) which is overwhelmingly widespread in Britain and overseas. This dictionary gives the same meaning for the word Arab as "street Arab, an outcast, a vagrant, a gutter-child, a child without a home."

It is more astonishing that these descriptions, given to the word "Arab", are well known since the British mandate imposed the English language on our educational system, and since then no opposition or protest has been heard from Arab academics or linguistic associations.

Jamil Haddad
Amman

12 MAY 1983

Kamel Abu Jaber



The Wall and the Agreement:

The continuation of a Tale

Greetings to Jerusalem!

ONE MORE time it was announced that this year, too, only religious festivities would be held to commemorate the Orthodox Easter. Jerusalem is still under occupation and the Arabs, Muslims and Christians alike have little to celebrate. Mr. George Shultz, the American Secretary of State, after twelve days of commuting between the cities of the area, left for a meeting of the European Economic Community ministers held in the gay city of Paris. It was reported that he was pleased with the results of his trip to the Middle East: the draft of an agreement between Lebanon and Israel. President Hafez el Assad of Syria was reported to have said that it is really not logical, nor is there any reason for Israel to reap benefits from its invasion and occupation of Lebanon. Lebanon was invaded by Israel in the summer of 1982 in an attempt to extend the Israeli Wall of security. The Wall that the late President Sadat of Egypt thought was a mere psychological barrier till it hit him in the face and till the day he was killed for it. Who benefitted by his death?

The Wall, built from the crude rocks of ancient hatreds, claiming to protect those within, turned out to be an unscalable barrier surrounding a ruthlessly armed camp that even you, Mr. Shultz, could not cross. Not with all the fanfare and modern trumpets at your disposal could you have equalled the feat of Joshua in ancient times. On the contrary whichever way it goes, Israel stands to benefit, for, if the agreement goes through, it will gain further legitimacy and many other benefits. And if it doesn't go through, then Israel will have gained the alibi that it tried but the other side could not deliver.

And it is thus that once again, whether in war or in peace, the Arabs find themselves defeated, overwhelmed and cornered. The presence of Syria and Israel in Lebanon are not equal. Syria, like Lebanon is an Arab country! Syria went into Lebanon by a decision of the Arab League, as part of the Arab peace-keeping force. Syria is of the region, unlike Israel whose very existence is an aggression: a by-product of colonialism. How Israel's occupation of Lebanon became equal to the Syrian presence is yet another mystery in the puzzle of the Middle East. How did the unequal become equal? It only attests, one has to suppose, to the infinite capability of the Israelis within their Wall.

Surely it makes sense when one says that the aggressor should not be allowed to reap benefits from his aggression: not in a civilized world. Yet, the aggressor will reap the benefits either way as it already has.

Even before the announcement of the agreement between Lebanon and Israel, Senator Charles Percy, Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee of the American Congress, and a man who has hitherto taken a critical stand vis-a-vis Israeli intransigence, became a strong supporter for increasing the economic and military aid to Israel: increased by about \$225 million it will total about \$2 billion 600 and 10 million. The committee vote was unanimous! Mr. Percy was worried about the possibilities of his re-election next year in 1984. The freeze on the delivery of 75 war planes will be lifted and they will be delivered to Israel. The Strategic Cooperation Agreement between Israel and the United States, reported by some to have died in the wake of Israel's invasion of Lebanon, will be revived. The atmosphere, said by some to have deteriorated between the United States and Israel over the past twelve months, is beginning to improve. Hitler's memoirs were found to be forged and both the British and the German publications were reported to be ashamed of themselves! Mr. Shultz was reported to have left for Paris with a smile on his face. Who would blame him? Paris is a beautiful city.

These were not the only benefits the Israelis gained by their latest aggressions. It seems to have succeeded, or is in the process of succeeding in its attempt to bipolarize the region between the two super powers once again. Is that why President Sadat was assassinated? While Israel may withdraw its troops, or the bulk of them — for fifty soldiers will remain to guard the Wall — its influence in Lebanon, indeed in the area, will have increased. The Arabs are further confused, disorganized and demoralized so that many are wondering, "when will we reach rock bottom?" The corridor down is so dark, dark and hopeless. And just the other day, someone suggested, in earnest that the present Israeli government is weak. Why? Begin's health, a new President, a new Minister of Defence and a new army chief of staff. And in my nightmare I screamed; spare me the strong Israeli government.

Language and Progress

As early as the beginning of this century, Hafiz Ibrahim, the then well-known Egyptian poet (died 1932), posing as the spokesman of the Arabic language reproached the publicly-held disbelief of his time in the aptitude of Arabic for the task of keeping up with cultural and scientific progress. In a poem of his, this language bemoans the maltreatment it did suffer at the time at the hands of its very speakers. "When I cried in appeal to my folks, language is made to complain. I feared for my sanity and for my very life. It was they, my folks, that have accused me of sterility even at the prime of my youth. If this is the attitude of people of my kin, should I care what enemies do say against me?"

Am I not still that wide sea-expanse wherein settles a sumptuous treasury of pearls and gems only conspicuous enough for the diver to find and catch? How strikingly alive this exhortation of Hafiz Ibrahim for the retrieval of our native language's due esteem rings nowadays!

For even now, just about half a century after the great Arab poet's death, Arabic language seems to be suffering a lot more badly than it ever did — Carelessness as to the significantly essential role Arabic language can play in the area of clear and precise self-expression wherewith to serve the top priority of popularization of human culture, technology and science is the untoward order of the day. Nor are the reasons for such wide-spread linguistic inertia far to seek. It has been the sum-result of ages of foreign-channelled suppression, voluntary acquiescence, self-imposed fossilization, piecemeal fragmentation and suicidal mistrust. It seems that our liberation from the yoke of the long-drawn sari — killing Ottoman rule has only been a fallacy. For now under the umbrella of the jig-saw puzzle of petty fragmentary statehoods, we seem to have once more given way to a sort of lazy indifference as to any really inventive, rather than imitative, endeavour to keep up with the pace of modern all-round progress — let linguistic aptitude alone.

Has not the spirit of our masses been so cruelly crushed by the imperialist West, by Israel its cat's paw and by fifth columnists in the Arab World that not only political fragmentation but also social disintegration has been the bitter harvest we are reaping now? Has not the dichotomy between humanities and sciences, which our educationists have been misled to believe in and foster, split the nations' mind into a sick dualism bordering on schizophrenia? Have not a good number of our teachers and university professors been consciously or unconsciously led to preach the superiority of the shallow scientifically minded "elite" over the

By Henry Matar

poor literary-minded sufferers? Yes, they certainly have. And what is worse, this very class of pseudo knowledgeable "elites" has not only superciliously separated itself from the body of the rank and file of the population, emulated the chaff of foreign — imported culture and technological progress, formed an exclusively parasitic group of opportunist self-seeking monopolists, of wisdom, but also — owing to its poor linguistic background — carried a deep contempt and mistrust for the aptitude of the native tongue for scientific and technological expression.

It seems as if these so-called preachers of science have convinced themselves of the futility of any attempt made towards the promotion of Arabic linguistic proficiency in matters of modern development and progress. And even if such fossilization were kept within the narrow circle of professorship, things would still look a little brighter. But unfortunately; having the matter of education mainly in their hands, such ill-brain-washed masters of knowledge have carried the contagion across to their students. The vicious circle of considering linguistic precision and sound application a futile pedantry and a sheer waste of time has passed on from one generation to another. Not only the superstructure but also the infrastructure of literacy

has caught the infectious myopia of vision.

How then can you expect clear vision in politics, culture, technology, science or what not, if the vehicle of vision, that is the native language, is so miserably hit? Can you, the common layman receiver of knowledge — be you at school, college, university seminars, conferences, radio talks and T.V. discussions — expect to get at anything when the really worthy masters of clear thought and clear language at the same time are only barely few? Is this story of clear thought and clear linguistic expression the same story as that of the chicken and the egg?

The negative picture about our cultural failure has been drawn only to prove that it is not a failure due to any intrinsic defect or weakness of the language itself, but rather to the bad luck it has suffered at the hands of its users. Still a bright-shining streak of hope has recently started to change the gloominess of the picture in Jordan — thanks to the efforts which the Jordan Academy of Arabic (JAA) and some interested people at the Royal Scientific Society (R.S.S.) have lately exerted towards the revival of faith in our native tongue. Backed up by a few linguistically enlightened university professors, the former institution, the J.A.A., has concentrated on the translation of scientific university textbooks, and the other institution, the R.S.S. on the question of the popularization of science and knowledge in general through authorship, editing and publication in the medium of Arabic. Both institutions are actually contributing in one way or another to the cultural literacy of the ordinary layman.

Nevertheless, neither the pioneer work of the J.A.A. nor the initial step of the R.S.S. will have the chance of maintaining any lasting success unless serious measures, on both the official and popular levels, are taken towards the revision of our concepts of education, in general and of our attitude towards language, in particular.

Airing our messages

By Osama El-Sherif

AN AMERICAN BUSINESSMAN from American Midwest, who is currently conducting a tour in the Middle East, told me last week how important the time has become for us to gather our efforts and launch a media campaign explaining the Arab side in the United States. He said that television is becoming the most important single source of information to the American public. "It is not a fallacy to say that the three national television networks in the United States are controlled or financed by powerful and rich American Jews," he told me. Television stations do their utmost to present only the Israeli logic on the Middle East conflict.

But we knew this all along, I told him. Ever since we became aware of the necessity to inform the American public of what is really going on in our area and how their government is involved, we realized that the way to reach the American public is through television screens. We all agree on this, but we still, as educated Arabs and responsible governments, are incapable of translating this fact into action. And since we are talking about television and how important it has become in educating the masses, it is vital to ask ourselves another question: What do our television stations do to inform us on what is happening in our area and the world?

The sad answer is nothing or too little. Any Arab who has been in Western countries will agree that it is sometimes difficult to call our national TV station as Jordanian. Between the Hollywood-produced cartoons, the French programmes, M.A.S.H., Dallas and the Saturday Night Parade our efforts to educate ourselves and the foreign community in Jordan are lost. So when our American businessman asks why we are not doing something about American television, we really have to smile and think.

If our problem lies in planning then we must ask what all the Arab broadcasting organizations that hold meetings every now and then are doing. If the problem is financial then our accusations will be directed towards those who have the money in the Arab world and are misusing it. In short, the Arab world possesses all that it needs in terms of technical, financial and organizational resources to produce television programmes that are objective, constructive and can influence Americans and Arabs everywhere.

The question is why aren't we doing it? Whatever the answer is, it is no justification, especially at a time when our own existence as a nation is at a landslide.

Nuha Batchone gives her love to her country heritage

By Lella G. Deeb

NUHA BATCHONE travelled far afield from her native Palestine before her love of Arab culture and traditions led her to open Jordan's first art gallery 10 years ago.

Nuha believes her varied working experience in Bahrain, England and then Jordan has allowed her to achieve part of what she had always aimed for: meeting interesting and exciting people from all over the world, learning, seeing, living a different life through studying, through the theatre, and music.

She has spent every spare moment after work and classes in going to art galleries and bookshops. She took courses in flower arrangement, woodwork, antiques and theatre appreciation, as well as broadcasting, mass media, film and television production and programme planning.

These last were really only a part of Nuha's career, which was partly spent at the BBC in London, and then at the Hashemite Broadcasting Service from 1965 until 1972. She returned to Amman to take up the latter job because of nostalgia and love for the country - "finding her roots", as she put it.

Like many people of her background, Nuha had missed her childhood and her teens, having left Jaffa at a very young age, and then struggling along with her family to make the best out of a practically impossible situation. She strove hard to gain as much out of her education and work as she could.

Asked how she became involved in antiques and folk art, Nuha said she had bought her first Saudi incense burner in Bahrain. She began to think about the ceremony behind the incense burner and found it charming; not only was it a beautiful tool, but there was a whole history behind it. She began to buy more artefacts and handicrafts, and bought her first oil painting there as well. That was the start of a collecting career.

Radio Productions

She came back to Jordan determined to try out "what we have and what we can offer." Her BBC experience to back her, she was able to produce one of the most popular radio programmes, "Akhi Al-Muwatin" (My Brother Citizen). This programme "had the spirit of refining the sense of belonging, the positive attitude of what I can do for my country and people rather than what I can get out of them."

In the meantime, Nuha had established her own business, a press, public relations and advertising office called "Sawt Wa Souva" (Voice and Picture), which she still runs. She represented through this office a number of broadcasting stations, newspapers and magazines. "As far as I know, I was the first woman to establish such an office here."

Towards the second half of 1967, Nuha joined Jordan Television, first as a newscaster and producer, and later specializing in the production of documentary programmes. Another very popular programme she produced was a documentary called "Mawtin Al-Rijal wal-Amal" (The Country of Men and Hope), which required her to do extensive research into the history of Jordan. "During that period, I had the wonderful opportunity to discover Jordan in depth: the people and the land."

A unique opportunity was given her during her research for this programme, and that was to research old recordings of speeches of the late King Abdullah and Talal.

Four-metre-square shop

Nuha's other interests inevitably steered her towards her present career. She was a member of the "Friends of Archaeology," the Home and Garden Club and later an active member of the Royal Jordanian Institute of Fine Arts. In 1972, she opened the Gallery which at that time was a four-metre-square arts and crafts shop in a corner of the Jordan Intercontinental Hotel lobby.

As a lover and collector of arts and local crafts, she started with the "extra bits and pieces" from her own collection, and started displaying and selling them in her little cubicle. It was so small that she often had to go outside the gallery when she had customers, to give them enough room to look around. Later on, she moved to another place - still small, but was able to expand it sometime afterwards.

Nuha started displaying local artists. Before that, she said, they had their own exhibitions, which meant that they were shown only for a short time and to a limited number of visitors. With the advent of the art gallery, they could be shown for much longer periods, and viewers able to reschedule their visits to see the art.

Participation of women artists helped a lot. "I found that women were especially understanding, helpful and eager to learn. But it took several years before they began to show their work. Also it took me quite a while to learn to be selective."

Finest selection

She sometimes feels that there would not sell at the time, but she was sure they were good art and showed the ability of the artist. She accepted by the public the works of modern Jordanians with the silver, copper and brass of their ancestors.

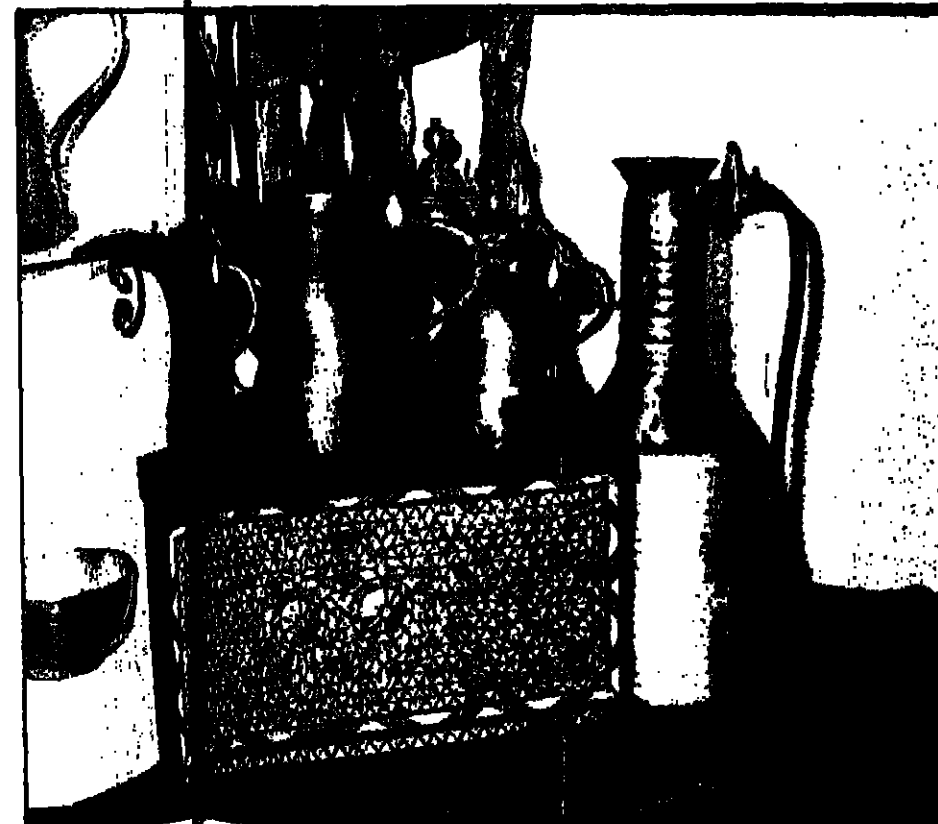
Nuha wanted to show that the items used in the homes of Arabs in earlier days had craftsmanship and finesse, as well as beauty, and were still functional. She is very fond of pointing out the details and "fantastic beauty" of mansaf trays, bridal chests and other items. "I found that in our heritage there is such beauty, yet in our modern home we don't utilize these items as we should." In her displays, Nuha tries to create a home atmosphere. But by seeing the pieces in a gallery context, people begin to see each one "as an object d'art, and not the odd piece from their grandmother that should be got rid of."

"I know for sure that a lot of people visit the gallery to see the essence and beauty of our culture and heritage, which in itself is satisfying." Many young and aspiring artists are also grateful to Nuha for bringing them into the public eye. She has become well-known to a select group of art and antique lovers for being able to unearth and present them with the most interesting and valuable works - both old and modern art.

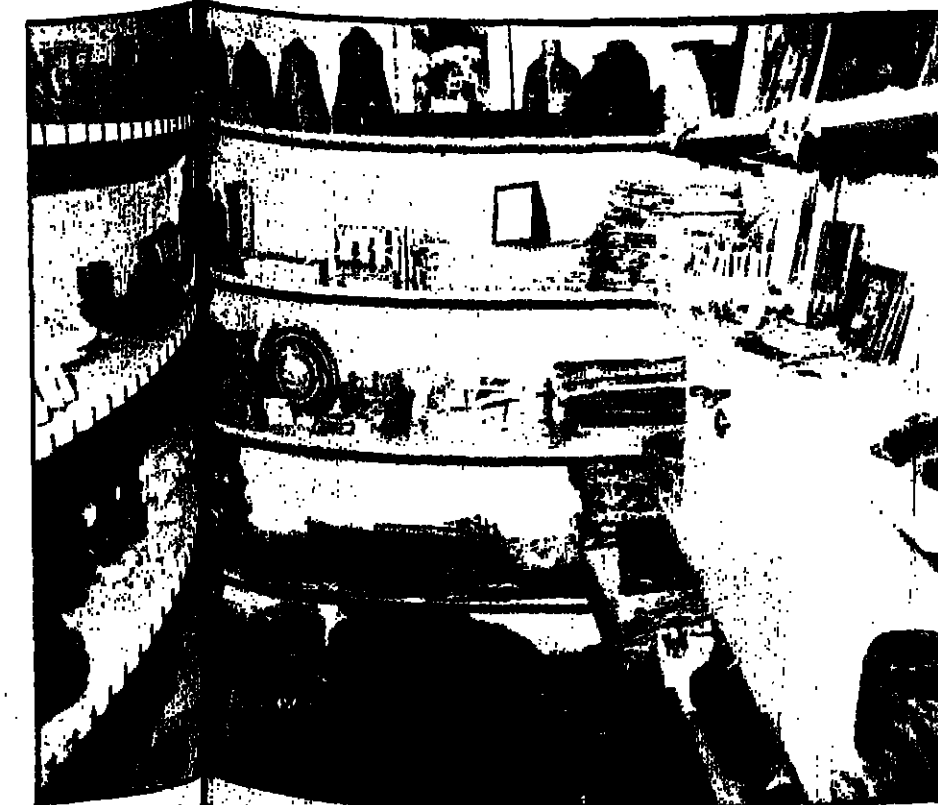
Nuha is modest about her achievement; but all who know her agree that she has been able to contribute to her heritage love and understanding, not only her own, but that of the people to whom she has introduced it.



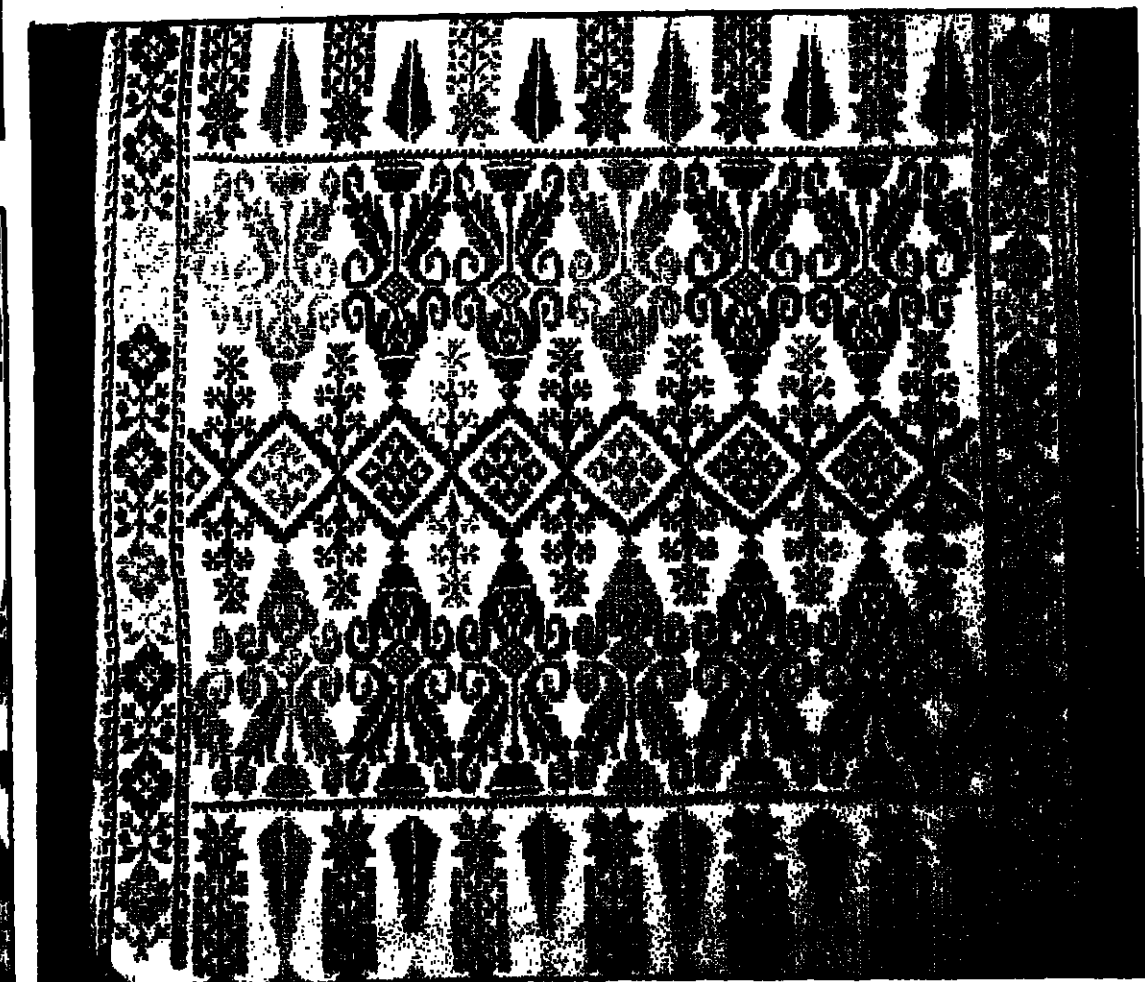
Nuha Batchone



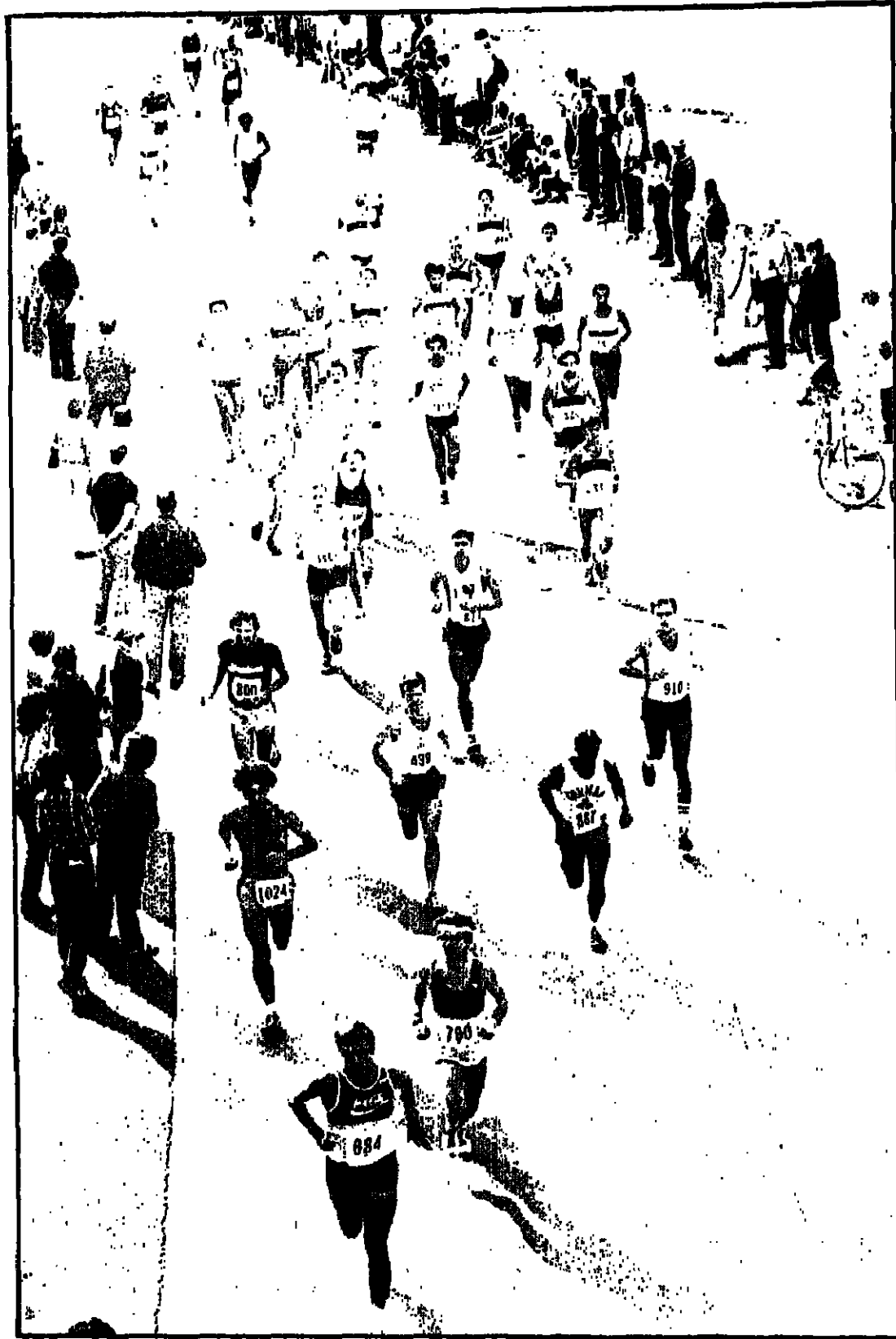
Polished copper and silver chest at The Gallery



Shelves crammed with valuable memorabilia



Native Palestinian embroidery (Photos by Hassan Ibrahim)



The US Marine Corps Marathon in Washington, DC, in which 9,996 amateur runners participated.

America on the run

By James Flxx

NEW YORK - More than any other race, the New York City Marathon has come to symbolize and summarize the running movement that has engulfed America for half a decade. A Florida dentist I know abandons his accustomed duties each year at this time to make his pilgrimage to Manhattan. So do a distinguished California medical researcher, an important Ohio oil company executive, and thousands of others - the fleet and the fledgling, who arrive from every corner of the world.

The October 1982 New York marathon - a marathon is 41.6 kilometres - was sport, but it was also much more. It was sociology, revealing much about Americans and raising a host of tantalizing questions. Of these, perhaps the most salient is: Will the enthusiasm for running endure?

Several pieces of evidence point to an answer.

First, few people who take up the sport quit. By the time they have experienced the pleasures of hard exercise for a month or two, a lifetime habit has more often than not set in.

Second, the number of entrants in races, after a striking period of growth from 1977-1980, has held steady. Not every runner, of course, participates in races.

Still, such events are revealing index to what is happening.

Third, running meshes closely with the current interest in holistic medicine.

Finally, the social fabric has begun to feel the impact of the running explosion. Track clubs have become neighbourhood meeting places. People have made friends and even met mates through the sport. Dietary practices have changed. American clothing has been noticeably infiltrated by running garb. Whatever else Americans might be, in late 1982 the United States was beyond question a nation of runners.

In 1975, the number of runners in the United States was around 6 million. More recent surveys suggest as many as 40 million Americans might be on the roads.

Most runners, however, run chiefly because the sport makes them feel energetic and alert, not just while they are exercising but all day.

The physiological reasons for this are manifold. A runner's heart, lungs and circulatory system become so healthy they might well be, as one physician said, "right off the charts." Endurance increases. So does strength.

To speculate on the reasons for Americans running is not to argue that it is an undesirable. On the contrary, running seems an excellent pursuit.

(Copyright USA Today)

VIEWPOINT

Manoeuvring threatens a pullout

By Ya'acoub Jabir

THE DRAFT withdrawal agreement between Lebanon and Israel will dominate the Middle East scene for weeks to come. The agreement can constitute a significant step towards an overall peace. But miscalculation and political exploitation could turn it into an opening for a new wave of hostilities obstructing movement towards a wider settlement.

The present climate in the Middle East allows political manoeuvring to override good judgment, even though an objective look at the draft accord leads to the conclusion that it represents the maximum that Lebanon can gain under the prevailing circumstances.

Of course, the Arabs, and particularly the Lebanese, would have liked to see Israel pull out of Lebanon without any strings attached. Israel, after all, perpetrated an unjustified, ruthless invasion of an independent country and should not be in the least rewarded for a clear-cut act of aggression. But how can this be feasible when Lebanon is so weak and fragmented, and Arab states are either unable or unwilling to give it concrete support?

From this perspective, the agreement should be viewed as a remarkable tentative success for US Middle East peace efforts. In just a few days of shuttling between Lebanon and Israel, Secretary of State Shultz was able to come up with a compromise solution acceptable to both sides.

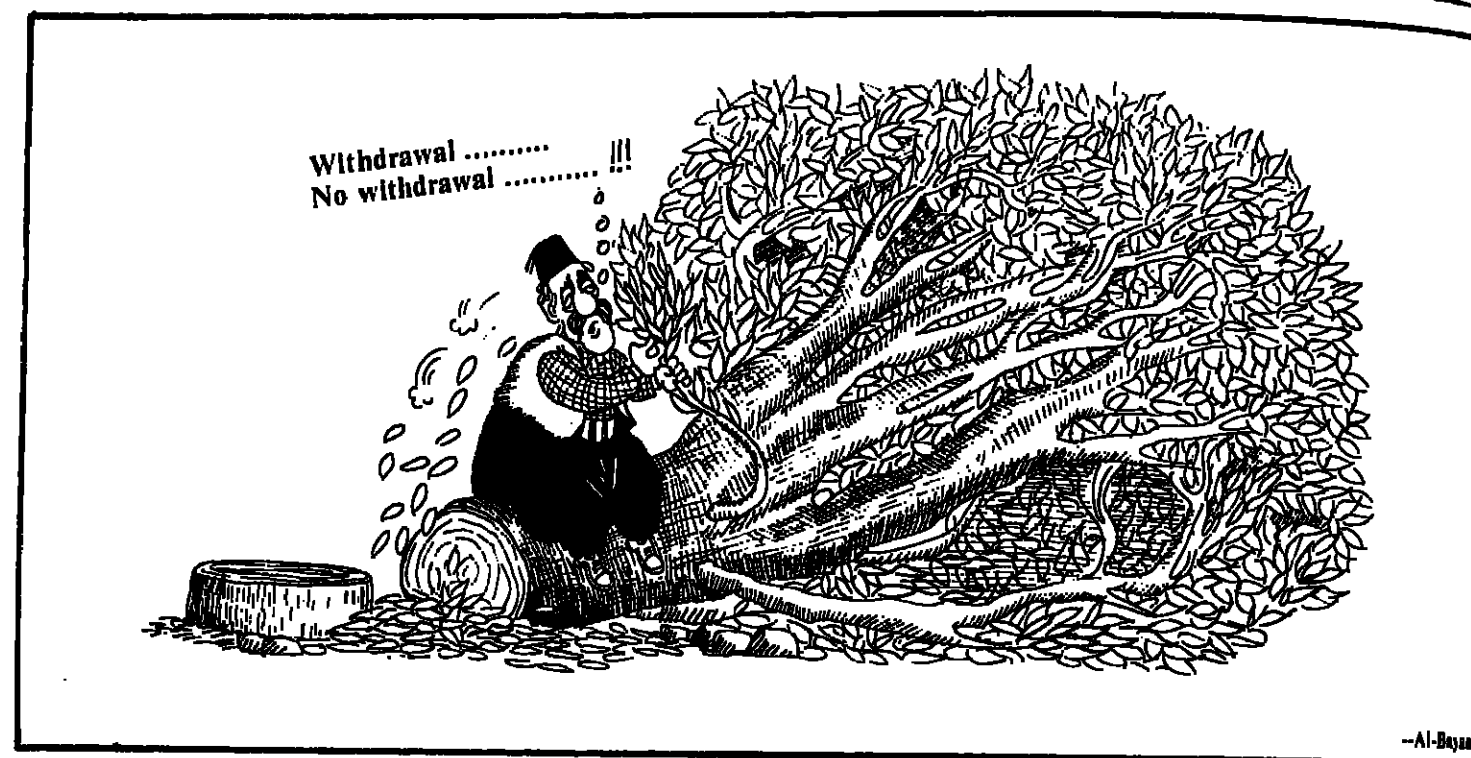
This simply means that once the US administration sets out to achieve something, even the intransigent Menachem Begin can yield.

Just why Mr. Shultz's trip was so unnecessarily delayed is a big question mark. But now that the agreement has been reached, its implementation faces what looks like insurmountable hurdles. To reach an accord is something, and to put it into effect is quite a different thing.

The United States is aware of the obstacles, but for the moment seems satisfied with what it has accomplished. Washington, however, will soon come down to the reality that in order to implement the agreement and move on to the much harder task of finding an overall Middle East settlement, it needs to make serious contacts with a powerful party trying effectively to foil American plans in the region — namely, the Soviet Union.

We need not go into details about the importance of Soviet participation in the Middle East. Whether some like it or not, the Soviets are here and can no longer be ignored.

In his recent interview with An-Nahar newspaper of Beirut, His Majesty King Hussein said a US-Soviet meeting on the Middle East was inevitable. Now is the right time for such a meeting.



Middle East peace efforts

THE DRAFT accord on the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanon, and its implications for Middle East affairs as a whole, are the leading themes in Middle East press this week.

The Egyptian newspaper Al-Gomhouria writes that an Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon is the first step towards a comprehensive peace settlement in the Middle East.

"If such a step is achieved, Arab states could then entrust the US administration with the harder task of solving the problem of the West Bank and Gaza and the establishment of a Palestinian entity," the paper remarks.

It concludes by expressing the view that the shuttle of Secretary Shultz in the Middle East reflected increasing American interest in peace in the region.

The Qatari newspaper Al-Arab notes that freeing Lebanon of the Israeli occupation forces and protecting it against Israel's aggressive designs have been a major Arab objective.

But the paper goes on to say that US credibility in the Middle East remains shaken despite the draft accord on the withdrawal from Lebanon, because the United States is still biased as far as the Israeli schemes are concerned.

Noting that Lebanon and the Arabs are dealing with a devious, treacherous enemy, the Qatari English-language Gulf Times calls for careful examination of the agreement by Arab heads of state at their next summit conference so as to prevent the new accord causing a crack in Arab ranks.

Two Kuwaiti newspapers tackle the agreement from different angles.

Al-Ra'i Al-Aam writes that although the Lebanese crisis has been continuing for about a decade, it just beginning, contrary to what some people might think.

The paper charges that the United States has used the Israeli fait accompli to impose an agreement on Lebanon that undermines its sovereignty and leaves its southern part under the virtual control of Israel.

"It has been clear that Mr. Shultz could not go back to Washington empty-handed, so he worked out an agreement which would later leave the impression that Lebanon and the Arabs are responsible for what Israel might do," the paper concludes.

The English-language daily Kuwait Times welcomes the agreement but cautions against over-optimism.

It says that under the present regional and international circumstances, the implementation of the agreement is very difficult and could prove impossible.

Needless to say, Lebanese authorities must have the final word, and has the right to restore its control over the whole of Lebanese territory," Al-Ra'i asserts.

It goes on to say that the agreement between Lebanon and Israel, and even its implementation are not the end, but the means through which the US administration should work to put an end to the Israeli settlement activity and find a just solution to the Palestinian problem.

The paper concludes by urging the US administration to try hard to win the Palestinians' confidence, as this represents a vital factor if peace efforts are to succeed.

Sawt Al-Sha'b newspaper writes that Syria's negative stand towards the withdrawal agreement ignores Lebanon's right to sovereignty over its territory, and gives a pretext to Israel to maintain its military presence in Lebanon.

The paper remarks that if Israel carries out its threat of a unilateral withdrawal to the Awar river in case Syria refuses to withdraw, then Lebanon will be virtually partitioned, with Israel in control of the South and Syria dominating the Bekaa Valley. This could lead to a new internal explosion.

"In the absence of effective Arab assistance, Lebanon has reached an agreement achieving the utmost that could be achieved under its conditions of weakness and disintegration. What is required now from Arab States is to show real interest in Lebanon's sovereignty and territorial integrity and give this matter priority over all considerations," the paper concludes.

The English-language Jordan Times says that the Lebanese-Israeli agreement is important for two reasons: It is a good, perhaps the best, opportunity for Lebanon to restore its full sovereignty and rebuild the country; and it will be a major indicator of how

the wider peace process in the Middle East will proceed from here.

"In any case, the real significance of the draft accord can only, and ultimately, lie in its implementation that that moment comes, if it comes, or remain solidly behind Lebanon," asserts the Jordan Times.

Israeli press

In Israel, Davar asserts that Mr. Shultz has not yet solved the problems resulting from Syrian rejection of the agreement between Lebanon and Israel. A tripartite agreement involving Syria as a third party is needed, it says. "Israel's approval of the draft agreement prepared by Shultz seems to be an imperative act in order to avoid estrangement between Israel and the United States," Davar writes. "Sri President Assad looks is holding the keys to all chains put around Lebanon by Israel."

Haaretz writes that after reading the text of the agreement with Lebanon, the Israeli government will ask for "clarifications". The shadow of Israeli-American relations will always govern the agreement because it is an agreement between Israel and the US as much as it is with Lebanon, the paper says.

Al-Hamishmar takes a more critical view, writing that "Begin's government promised great achievements in exchange for the people's sacrifices." After 11 months of war in Lebanon, the Begin government emerges empty-handed, it says. "There seem to be no political gains or security for Israel."

Maariv adds that the Israeli cabinet "knows it has failed politically, militarily and morally, but the cabinet members do not possess the minimum of courage to admit their failure and to ask for investigation." Begin and company will not be involved again in another investigation, but they will try to beautify what is ugly and to conceal their sins from their people, it says.

A comparison of today's official temperature figures for Kandy with those of 30 years ago supports the stickler view that its citizens now take. Maximum temperatures in Kandy during March this year and March 1982 were frequently around 95 Fahrenheit. In March 1952 and March 1953 average maximum temperature was in the upper 80s.

Dennis Fernando, additional secretary to Sri Lanka's Mahaweli Authority, says: "The fundamental reason for the denuding of the hillsides around Kandy is tobacco cultivation."

A British American Tobacco Industries subsidiary, Ceylon Tobacco Company, is said to have encouraged farming families in the area each to clear themselves an acre of



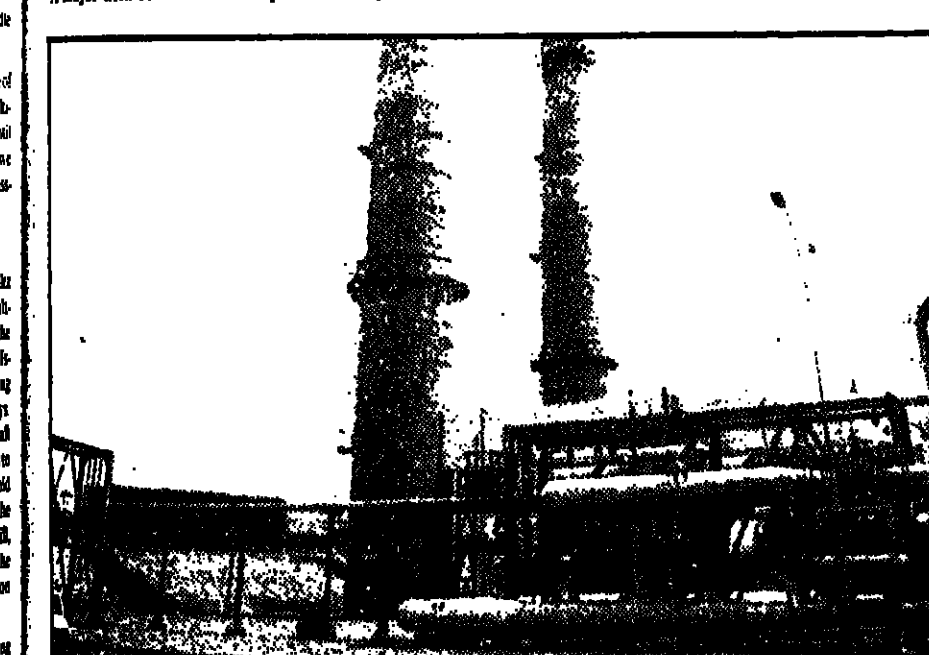
Unique approach

New scheme tackles Middle Eastern pollution

By Kathy Spillman



A major aim is to increase profitability



Contamination of air and water is a major concern

Kandy loses its cool

By John Madeley

"KANDY USED to be a cool place. Now look what's happened," said a flushed hotelier sweating in a 95 degree heat in this hill country town which tourists are told will make a cool change from Sri Lanka's capital, Colombo.

What seems to have happened is that scientists' predictions about deforestation causing temperature rises have come true in Kandy. In the last 10 years vast areas of forest have been cleared from nearby hillsides close to the Mahaweli River to make way for tobacco cultivation.

"When trees cover the ground," explained a government soil conservation officer, "the soil is protected and gives off comparatively little heat. Take the trees away and the soil is open to the sun and gives off far more heat during the day."

Stickler view

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Dennis Fernando, additional secretary to Sri Lanka's Mahaweli Authority, says: "The fundamental reason for the denuding of the hillsides around Kandy is tobacco cultivation."

A British American Tobacco Industries subsidiary, Ceylon Tobacco Company, is said to have encouraged farming families in the area each to clear themselves an acre of

common land from hillsides and plant tobacco. One official estimates 25,000 families in the area now grow tobacco.

Fernando says that after tobacco is harvested it is cured in slow drying barns for which more wood is required. "Seven tons of wood are used in those barns to dry each acre of tobacco. The whole thing is a scandal," he says.

Damage

Another official said: "When people in the West think of tobacco, they think of smoking and health. But we think of the damage that it is doing to our land."

A spokesman for British American described the area now under tobacco as "almost totally unproductive before we started to cultivate tobacco there." He said tobacco curing in the area required "only 150 acres of timber per year" and that farmers were being encouraged to plant their own trees.

The Ceylon Tobacco Company said that trees cleared for tobacco were few compared to those cleared for tea estates, but local people point out that trees cleared for tea estates were removed a century ago while "tobacco trees" have been axed in the last 10 years.

Officials fear that the denuding of slopes above the Mahaweli River will mean more silt being washed down into the river, and that new dams now under construction could become clogged up.

Cooler times could soon be returning to Kandy. The nearby British-aided Victoria

AMMAN — The United States Agency for International Development (AID) has launched a new and unique private sector programme aimed at reducing industrial pollution in Middle Eastern developing countries.

The programme is "a unique approach towards dealing with industrial pollution," says Dr. Steven Lintner, environmental co-ordinator of AID's Near East Bureau. "It is designed to tap the knowledge and expertise of US engineers and scientists from the private sector, basically from US multinationals, who have practical experience in industrial pollution control."

Productivity

The \$1.4 million project, will provide funding for at least 70 plant visits by US experts over the next five years. It aims at examining and correcting the sources of pollution with each factory surveyed. "We want to increase the productivity of the plant by this, increase the operational life of the plant and create a safer environment for the workers. Most importantly, by decreasing pollution, we will increase the profitability of the plant," said Dr. Lintner.

He noted that about 50 per cent of the industrial pollution in the Middle East is caused by poor maintenance and operation of industrial machinery. "These are experts we provide teach local engineers and scientists how to manage, maintain and operate anti-pollution equipment in a cost-effective manner," he said.

AID, in conjunction with the World Bank and the World Environmental Centre, a non-profit information and education service based in New York, has worked since 1981 to develop the idea behind the programme.

The programme began last year when the Tunisian government approached AID for assistance in dealing with pollution problems of the country's local industries. "As industrial pollution is a new problem for countries of the Middle East, the countries

don't have the local expertise to fight it," said Mr. Lintner.

Health risk

He identified three areas of concern now confronting Middle Eastern governments attempting to survey their industrial sectors for the causes of contamination of the air and water supply.

There is the health risk to workers inside the factory, the risk to people living immediately adjacent to the factories and there is the contamination of surface and ground water, which is the overriding concern of all Mideast governments.

The AID programme, formally named the International Environment and Development Service, is open to any Middle Eastern country that asks for assistance. "In developing a broad strategy to identify the worst offenders of pollution in the industrial sector," said Mr. Lintner. The project, already successfully implemented in Tunisia, is currently under study in Turkey, Egypt and Jordan.

The project is a co-operative effort between the US government and any Middle Eastern nation willing to participate. "The US government will pay the travel expenses of the experts and the industry, whether public or private, will pay the salaries," said Mr. Lintner.

Surveys

Surveys conducted in each factory are of a short duration, each lasting between two to three weeks. "Our job is to identify the problems and their sources and present possible options and solutions to the government if the industry is state-owned, or to the private industrial sector," said Mr. Lintner.

Among the US corporations that have already agreed to participate in the programme are Tenneco, Texaco, General Mills, Dow Chemical and Philip Morris.

Mr. Lintner said that other countries outside of the Middle East have expressed interest in the project, particularly in the Asia region. Depending on the success of the project in the Middle East, the service will be expanded world-wide.

How biogas could save Latin America's forests

TEN LATIN American countries are working on an alternative energy programme which could save them the equivalent of \$10.5 billion by 1985 and give a huge boost to environmental protection.

The project involves the development of biogas — generated through converting vegetable, cattle and other agro-industrial residues — as a substitute fuel for oil.

One of the main objectives is to bring a halt to deforestation, which has reached alarming proportions in Latin America as in many other Third World regions.

The programme was launched by Olade, the Latin American energy organization, which says the use of biogas for domestic purposes could reduce deforestation by 60 per cent in 1985 and almost 80 per cent by 1995.

Olade also estimates that without energy substitutes, by 1995 forestry resources in the 10 countries would be deprived of 83.83 million ETP (equivalent tons of petroleum) of precious wood and timber.

A joint study by Olade and the United Nations Development Programme concluded that 30 per cent of the energy mix of the majority of countries concerned originated from forest resources.

The study warned that constraints imposed by the high cost of conventional fuels, including their transportation, would prolong the deforestation process with all its potentially disastrous environmental consequences.

Opera

Psychiatry in Jordan still suffers teething troubles

Special to the Star

This week Najwa Kefay continues her article on psychiatry in Jordan, with a look

BECAUSE PSYCHIATRY is such a new field in Jordan, the country still suffers a severe shortage of institutional facilities, according to Dr. Awni Saad, president of the Jordan Association of Psychiatrists.

There are no private psychiatric hospitals and those run by the Ministry of Health, at Fuheis and Yudeh, suffer from problems of overcrowding and shortage of staff. Fortunately with modern methods of treatment the number of chronic patients requiring permanent hospital care is diminishing rapidly.

Psychiatric hospitals also need specially trained nurses, social workers, and clinical psychologists and these are not available in sufficient numbers. Dr. Saad believes new incentives are needed to attract people into this specialty, not only doctors but nurses, psychologists and social workers as well.

The other things that we lack are the specializations. Most of the psychiatrists in Jordan are general psychiatrists. Very few have developed special interest in behaviour therapy, psychotherapy or child psychiatry, they have not undergone adequate training nor do they solely confine themselves to these interests as they have to see patients covering the whole spectrum of psychiatric illnesses and of all ages.

Medicines

Another important problem is that many of the medicines that are used in psychiatric treatment are not available in Jordan. The Ministry of Health has restricted them because of their abuse by patients and their too liberal dispensing by pharmacists in the past. Dr. Awni believes that the way to combat the abuse of these drugs is to restrict the way in which they are dispensed and used rather than to restrict their availability. The psychiatrist's association is now hoping that the necessary measures will be taken to reorganize the availability and dispensing of these medications.

Private care

Dr. Saad believes there is scope for the development of private psychiatric hospitals here, although they are extremely expensive to set up.

The reason for this is simple but very important. Psychiatry is the most "language bound" branch of medicine. The psychiatrist must communicate verbally with his patient, and if the patient does not speak the language of the psychiatrist, it is very difficult for him to obtain the proper treatment. Many patients from the Gulf and Saudi Arabia, who develop a psychiatric illness now go to Europe for treatment. They encounter many problems, because of the language barrier. Dr. Saad believes that if a good private psychiatric hospital existed in Jordan, it would attract a large number of these patients, and Jordanians would also be able to share the benefits of the expanded facilities.

When to consult

If we do have psychiatric facilities, who should consult them and when is the appropriate time?

Nosing towards safety

PEOPLE MAY soon answer their craving to smoke by taking liquid snuff. Research has shown that a nasal nicotine solution can satisfy the smoker without the risks associated with cigarettes.

The use of nicotine chewing gum as a temporary substitute for cigarettes has proved effective in reducing withdrawal symptoms and increasing success at giving up smoking.

But nicotine is absorbed rather slowly from the gum and a four-man Anglo-Swedish research team has been looking for another substitute that could deliver the nicotine more rapidly.

The researchers from London's Institute of Psychiatry and New Cross Hospital, and AB Leo in Helsingborg, Sweden, have developed a nasal solution that contains nicotine.

Tests on three laboratory volunteers—one regular smoker and two former smokers—showed that while the nasal solution could not match the rate of nicotine absorption from cigarettes, it offered more rapid and efficient intake than smokers' chewing gum.

Dr. Michael Russell, senior lecturer at the London Psychiatry Institute's addiction research unit, says in a report to the British Medical Journal.

"Though improvements will be needed to make it more acceptable to smokers, preliminary findings suggest that nasal nicotine solution might prove a useful aid to giving up smoking. It might be particularly useful in people with dentures or peptic ulcers and in those who experience nausea and dyspeptic problems with nicotine chewing gum."

(LPS)

at problem of providing adequate care for psychiatric patients.

Most patients are referred by their family doctor or by specialists in other fields of medicine because naturally, they turn to their family doctor for help initially. This is how it is in most cases and how it should be.

The family doctor can concentrate of treating the straightforward mild illnesses and refer more severe cases to the psychiatrist. Severe mental disorders such as organic and functional psychoses, anxiety, neurosis severe depression, and sexual and marital problems are normally treated by the psychiatrist.

Dr. Saad says unfortunately psychiatrists in Jordan face a major problem and that is that people are not aware that psychiatric evaluation and treatment is a lengthy process. It takes hours or even days before the doctor arrives at the proper diagnosis and before proper help can be given.

The rehabilitation of patients into their jobs, families and societies requires the efforts of not only their doctor but also social workers and psychologists plus close liaison between the psychiatrist and the family doctor.

Many people expect to go to the psychiatrist, like they go to a general practitioner and leave the clinic after 15 minutes with the proper diagnosis and a prescription for a medicine, pay the same charge and go home and be cured. With psychiatric illness this is just not possible.



"You'd better come down here before I convince you that you're not a fly."



A cuddly dog that makes a little girl's eyes shine

Breaking the sound barrier

A CUDDLY dog that makes a little girl's eyes shine is nothing new. But a deaf little girl who makes a dog's eyes shine is something different.

This little fellow, produced by Marconi Space and Defence Systems — better known for sophisticated circuitry for tanks and missiles — has a microphone concealed in his nose that is linked to a sound-sensitive light switch.

When the child makes a vocal sound, the dog's eyes light up — flashing enthusiasm and encouragement for further conversation.

(DGT)

Of course, the dog responds to any sort of sound so the next stage is for a therapist to help the child turn the sounds into words.

A great advantage of the idea is that the child can chatter away to the dog quietly by herself without any distraction from the presence of doctors.

Tests have also found that it encourages deaf children to try harder to communicate with humans as well as dogs — the first vital steps in breaking through the "sound barrier."

New attack on cancer cells

By John F. Webb

THE SUCCESS of London medical researchers in eliminating cancer cells from human bone marrow will enable breast cancer patients to be given more powerful and effective drugs to combat the disease.

The power of many drugs given to cancer victims has to be limited because of their danger to important healthy cells in the bone marrow. This problem has been overcome to a certain extent by removing the marrow while high-power drugs are being given and then reimplanting it once the drug has left the body.

Unfortunately, in many cases cancer cells are already in the bone marrow when the disease is diagnosed so that even if high-dose therapy is effective the cancer cells in the bone marrow can start to multiply once the marrow is reintroduced into the body.

Doctors have thus long sought what is known as a "clean-up" procedure that will kill malignant cells in bone marrow while sparing the healthy cells. In blood cancers, substances that will seek out and kill only the malignant cells have already been used successfully.

Recently, Dr John Kemshead of The Institute of Child Health in London reported he had developed a novel means of removing tumour cells from bone marrow taken from a child being subjected to drugs. The technique, soon to be the subject of clinical trials at two London hospitals, involves the use of tiny polystyrene beads with metallic centres which attach themselves to tumour cells. When the bone marrow is passed through strong magnets the tumour cells are literally pulled out.

The technique has so far been used on children suffering from a rare and often fatal

type of cancer known as neuroblastoma. Dr Kemshead says at this stage of the technique's development he believes that 99.9 per cent of the cancer cells can be removed. If the method proves successful in totally freeing bone marrow of its tumour cells, it is hoped it can be adapted to treat other forms of cancer.

Another method

Following this success, a team of six medical researchers from the Ludwig Institute of Cancer Research and London's Royal Marsden Hospital has claimed it has used another method to kill more than 95 per cent of cancer cells in bone marrow taken from patients with solid tumours.

In a preliminary report to The Lancet, medical magazine, the team says this was achieved by a substance obtained from mice which acts as an antibody, or enemy, of human breast cancer cells.

Known as monoclonal antibody F1b-75, it seeks out the bone marrow cancer cells because it recognises a substance present only on them, and causes them to be killed through the presence of another substance in the blood known as complement.

The Ludwig-Marsden team says it has demonstrated that F1b-75 can deal with tumour cells in bone marrow both effectively and safely. It could be used against all tumours that bear the substance hostile to F1b-75 provided the tumour cells did not occur in very large clumps. Such large clumps do not occur in bone marrow.

The team says its results are sufficiently encouraging to stimulate the search for other antibodies that would be even more effective against tumour cells. Meanwhile the use of F1b-75 will enable doctors to start a high-dose therapy programme for breast-cancer patients.

(London Press Service)

12 MAY 1983

Artist of the village turns to Arabesque

By Najwa Kefay

Special to the Star

NATURE, with all its phenomena and their many aspects is fascinating. This fascination affects some people more than others or shall we say, some people have a special ability to express the effect in their own way.

Bassam Nasr expresses it in his paintings. Nasr is a Lebanese painter artist, who was born and raised in the picturesque countryside of Lebanon. He was inspired by its beautiful scenery and landscape and started painting when he was nine years old. His mother was his main support since she herself was a painter, though not a professional one.

When he decided to polish his gift and go to an art school he ended up teaching as well. His professors thought he was too good to be a student, so they made him teach the lower classes in the school.

He has been a professional painter for 18 years. He belongs to the impressionistic school. He says he has been most influenced by Van Gogh and by Michelangelo whom he considers to be father of all painters.

Ever since the troubles in Lebanon he has been coming to Jordan and he married a Jordanian and settled here.

In Lebanon, he was the painter of the small tile roofed houses, the tiny villages at the bottom of a steep mountain, the narrow river flowing in the middle of a green valley, bridges, pine trees, lakes and sea shores. All the scenes so typically Lebanese.

Now you find in his art a mixture of two different cultures, two different styles and landscapes. You see the painting of an old town of purely Arabic architecture, the mosques, the desert, the palm trees and the bedouin and his tent. He has grown to appreciate the natural beauty of his adopted country and enjoys painting it.

The Arabesque style is gradually being introduced to his painting, changing the

style and the distinctive Lebanese character of his work to a mixture of more general trends and styles.

Nasr paints with oil as well as water colours, Chinese ink, coal and chalk and uses different techniques in his painting including knives and blades along with brushes and pens.

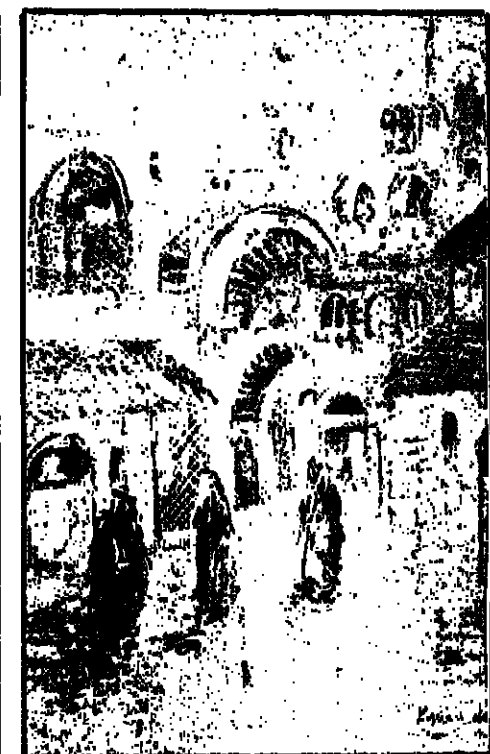
Adapting to his new situation has not been easy. He says an artist who goes outside his country feels insecure. He is a stranger, so is his work, he feels he has to start all over from the beginning. This is why the price of his paintings here is far less than what it was back in Lebanon. He wants to introduce his work to the Jordanian people gradually.

So far he is very happy with the co-operation and encouragement he is getting from the Jordanian people. The exhibition he has held here so far have been very successful.

Bassam Nasr's current exhibition is on at the Izzat Mansour Art Gallery in Jubelha, near the Jordan University-Jubelha crossroads. The exhibition continues until 15 May.



Above and below: the change from Lebanese village to Jordanian desert as the artist adapts to his new situation.
Far left: Bassam Nasr
Left: Arabesque



Muhammad Ahmed Abu Ghazal as Captain Lintz and Salah Suleiman-Kharisat as Prisoner No. 1 in "The Brig"

Student players take us inside 'The Brig'

By Hamdan Al-Haj

Special to the Star

WITH THEIR production of "The Brig" this week the students of the Yarmouk University Theatre section gave audiences a chance to feel the harsh reality of US Marine discipline.

The play is set entirely in the brig, a US Marine Corps short term prison and traces the experiences of eleven prisoners and their officers and guards over a 24 hour period.

Producer Fares Al-Abboudi, who teaches acting and production classes at Yarmouk University, said his aim with the play was to show the brig as it really is, with its degradation and brutality.

For Al-Abboudi the brig is the enemy and the source of the evil. The officers enforce the law and are themselves subject to it. In fact, we all live within rules, of the family, school and all the institutions of society.

Life begins at 42 for new singing star

By David Gillard

Opera's latest singing discovery is 42 years old and, until a few years ago, had never had a lesson. Yet today Rowland Sidwell, a former sales executive who once sang in church choirs, is a principal tenor with the English National Opera and a name tipped for the top.

Lord Harewood, the company's managing director, says: "Mr Sidwell has a marvellous voice but virtually no operatic experience. Yet he can sing absolutely anything. I believe he has the potential to become a great artist, a truly remarkable international heldentenor. We intend to give him every opportunity to develop his gifts."

Late starters are not unknown in the world of opera. Voices often develop between the ages of 20 and 30 and many well-known singers gave up secure careers outside the music world to become operatic professionals.

Miner's Son

Yet it is unheard of for a man in his forties, with virtually no training to gamble all on a singing career — and succeed.

The son of a miner, Rowland Sidwell first sang in a church choir at the age of eight. Later, as an amateur in London, he joined Britain's Royal Choral Society, the Tilford Bach Choir and the cathedral choirs of Guildford, in Surrey, and St Paul's.

During the day, aided by a business partner, he ran a successful heating and ventilation design consultancy. At night and at weekends he devoted himself to music.

Then, in 1978, he was introduced to a professional singing teacher after a service at St Paul's Cathedral. He agreed to take a few lessons — and was immediately advised to consider training his voice with a view to a career in opera.

Gamble

With the backing of his wife, Mary, and his four children — Nicolas, 9, Francis, 13, Christopher, 15 and 16 year old Catherine — Rowland Sidwell decided to take the gamble. He turned his back on his substantial company director's salary, took out a second mortgage on his house and accepted a £60 a week, six months contract in the chorus of Kent Opera.

"It was an enormous risk, but I knew I could go back to my company if my singing let me down. I just felt I had to give it a try," he says.

After his months with Kent Opera he moved to the chorus of the world-famous Glyndebourne Festival in Sussex, southern England and then won a scholarship to study at the prestigious National Opera Studio in London. It was there that he was heard by the talent-spotting Lord Harewood who immediately signed him for the English National Opera.

Just Between Us

Ya'qoub Salim



It's a small world

TO ADD to my list of enjoyable experiences, I now have that of meeting someone who knows someone you know, or who knows somebody who knows someone you know somebody who knows, or even meeting someone you used to know yourself, a long time ago as I did yesterday. When that happens, it proves that it's a small world.

To tell the truth, it so happens that this world isn't really all that small, unless you come from Jupiter. Last I heard, the Earth's circumference at its equator was 40,075.03 kilometres, which is a long day's walk. The diameter is 12,713.510 kilometres, and the planet's weight has too many noughts to fit on this page. Also, there's lots and lots of water separating all the places where people can walk.

My old acquaintance (I can't actually claim him as a friend) had always been agreeable to talk to, and whenever I ran into him at school he had a smile and a friendly word—so I enjoyed seeing him (I never truly knew how he felt about seeing me). Thus, I was delighted to meet him again. Our conversation was thrilling:

"I can't believe it! It's you!"

"I can't believe it! It's you!"

"What have you been doing all these years?"

"What have you been doing all these years?"

"I can't believe it! It's you!"

"When can we get together?"

"Well..."

"I can't believe it! It's you!"

Barely able to contain our astonishment and mutual admiration for having found each other, we shook hands for a long time.

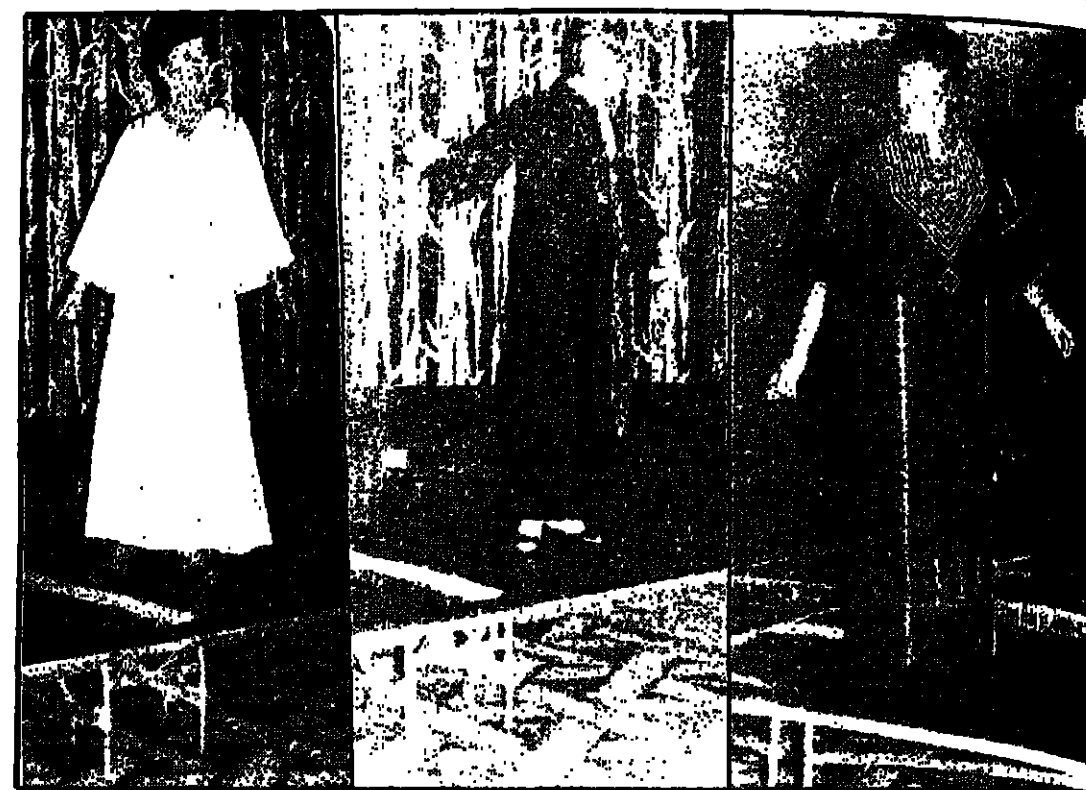
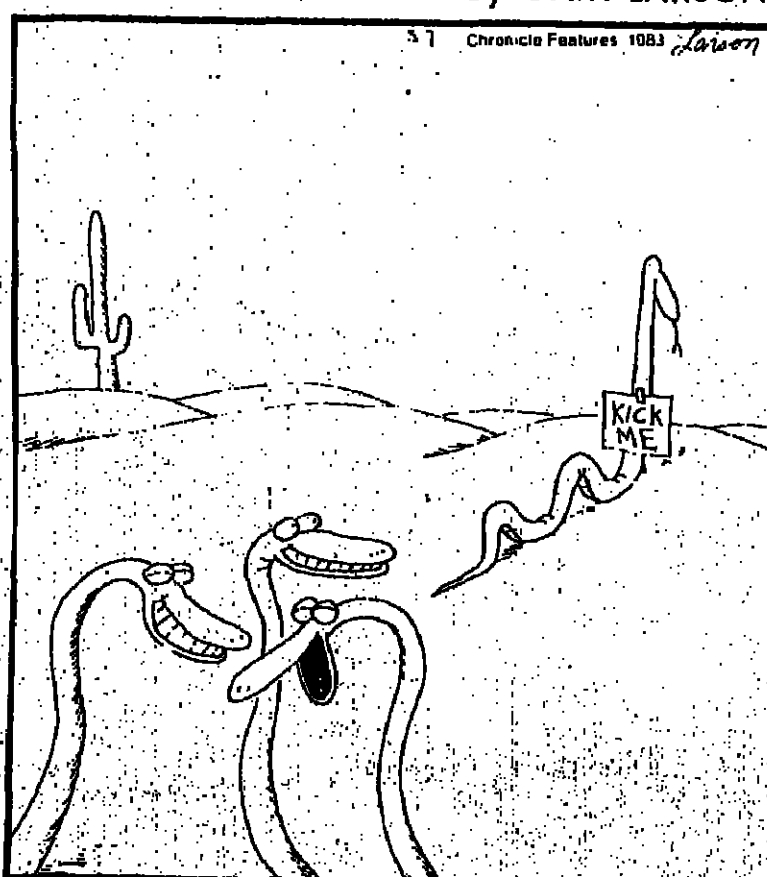
I estimate that the great pleasure of that moment lasted for at least 10 minutes. It was very exciting, because I knew that we would have so much to share and to talk about. After all, we had a great deal in common, didn't we? I took a moment to think, and came up with a short mental list of all the times, people and things we shared. It started with the fact that we went to algebra class together, and went on to include...

Oh well. The list was indeed very short. But even if we didn't know each other all that well in the past, we must have many interests to share now. And even if the thrill of meeting again wore off fairly rapidly, surely we could find the tie of friendship that must unite us now. After all, it's been a long time, and I barely know him. What if, upon being asked, he were to say, "What business is it of yours? Just because you met me once long ago, what does that mean? You live your life, buddy, and I'll live mine."

I wanted to press it further, and keep in touch with him. But suddenly, I thought—what if I turned out that his tastes, leanings, political views and religious convictions were diametrically opposed to mine? After all, it's been a long time, and I barely know him. What if, upon being asked, he were to say, "What business is it of yours? Just because you met me once long ago, what does that mean? You live your life, buddy, and I'll live mine."

THE FAR SIDE

By GARY LARSON



Hilly Pugh

Donna Naber

Anne McGilvray

Traditional and modern blend with elegance and rare skill

By Najwa Kefay

Special to The Star

WHEN THE British Ladies of Amman held their May meeting they had the pleasure of watching a display of traditional and modern Jordanian and Palestinian costumes designed by Mrs. Lella Jirys.

Mrs. Jirys told The Star that her main aim in offering to co-operate in holding such shows, is to present and preserve the Jordanian and Palestinian cultural heritage through these traditional costumes.

Mrs. Jirys runs a costume embroidery project in which some 160 Palestinian women living in refugee camps take part. For these women embroidery is a traditional skill and their work has a distinctive quality.

"The fabrics which I use," she says "are mainly washable cotton, although some material does require dry cleaning."

When she first started her project, she insisted on the use of hand woven fabrics, "but these unfortunately are no longer often available," she comments.

The cut she uses on the dresses is the traditional cut, but she tries to adapt it to suit our time and to follow the latest lines and fashion.

The embroidery used is either cross-stitching, filling stitches or simply machine work, while some of the dresses have applique patterns in different shades of silk. These are the main stitches used in the traditional costumes of this part of the world.

"The patterns of the dresses represent the different costumes that each town or village has," she goes on, "the women being affected by their surroundings and environment in creating the wide variety of rich and lovely designs."

Some of Mrs. Jirys' dresses follow the traditional costumes and follow the traditional Caftan design with variations in the stitches and in the material used, which can be either hand woven or machine woven.

One of the ladies present did find the dresses irresistible. As soon as the show finished she pounced on an elegant dress and refused even to try it on, buying it on the spot and paying cash.

It was an eloquent testimony to Mrs.

Jirys' success in maintaining a part of our heritage which is threatened by modern life. Unfortunately very few women now either embroider the dresses or wear them.

At the British Ladies show the ladies themselves did the modelling. The

modelling troupe consisted of Hilly Pugh, Ingrid Figueiredo, Brenda Jamal, Donna Naber, Ellen Yaghi and Anne McGilvray. The dresses were so appealing that many of the models were in a hurry to take them off before they became too used to wearing them.

CALENDAR

Theatre

The Goethe Institute presents a "Magic Show for Children" with Fred Maro

Thursday, Friday, Saturday, 12 — 14 May at 4 pm at the Haya Arts Centre

Exhibitions

The American Centre Presents "Most Ancient Jordan: the past half-million years." The exhibition continues until 23 May

The Alia Gallery presents an exhibition "Sculptures and drawings" by Mona Soudi

The French Cultural Centre presents "Ceramique Francaise Contemporaine" and "Contribution Francaise a L'Archeologie Jordanienne"

Lecture

Arab American poet Naomi Shehab Nye will present a lecture "Poetry of experience, family poems, Poetry about people/personal history in poetry" at the American Centre Thursday 19 May at 6.30 pm

Dr Gary Rollefson will present two slide lectures at the American Centre "Human hunters and gatherers"

Monday 16 May at 7.00 pm

"Early village life in Jordan"

Wednesday 18 May at 7.00 pm

Field Trip

The Friends of Archaeology are organizing a two day field trip to the desert castles of Amra and Khirana and to the city of Java.

Friday and Saturday 13 and 14 May

For further details contact 42467 or 37117

Videos

The French Cultural Centre presents a Video pour jeunes, Aviation: Les faucheurs de marguerites and Cinema: Les annees 30

Monday 16 May at 5.00 and 6.00 pm

Varietes: Barbara a Pantin, 1st and 2nd parts

Wednesday 18 May at 5.00 and 6.00 pm

The Centre Audio Visual Regional presents a cycle of films by Gerard Philippe

"Les Orgueilleux" Monday 16 May at 8.30 pm

"Les Belles de Nuit" Tuesday 17 May at 8.30 pm

"Juliette ou la Clef des Songes" Wednesday 18 May at 8.30 pm

Festival

The American Community School is holding an International Jordanian Festival. Activities include a performance by the Flying Falcons, music from the Jordanian army band and music dancing and food from many nations.

Friday 13 May from 10 am, Adults 300 fls, children 200 fls. Proceeds to local charities.



All Things Considered

Joyce Abu Jassar

Big savings !!!

MANY TIMES we long to splurge on a few luxuries but we don't because of a limited household budget. After a trip to the supermarket there isn't quite enough left in the purse for the new hairdo you thought you'd like to try or that nice dress you saw in the shop window.

It is only natural to buy well-advertized, foreign brands but this habit can burn through the monthly allowance fairly quickly. A solution to this problem is, whenever possible, to substitute less expensive local products for imported ones and save money on the considerable differences in price.

Local flour is ground in several grades with "zero" being the finest classification. This corresponds well to our imported packages of all-purpose flour and can be used successfully in favourite recipes. I actually prefer it in some pastries and breads. It makes a less stretchy dough because it is processed from low-gluten wheat.

Long grain American rice is relatively expensive when compared to the other varieties available. There are medium length grains that are about two-thirds as long as the American kind and they usually come from Italy or Spain. Egyptian rice is a rounded seed and has a good flavour. With a little attention these varieties give excellent results.

First measure out the amount you want to cook, about 1/2 cup per person. Sort through it to remove any rice husks or small stones. Then place it in a bowl and soak it in tepid water for 10 minutes to remove the starch coating. Drain and rinse several more times until the water is clear. Heat shortening in a pot, one tablespoon for every cup of rice, then add rice and stir until all grains are coated. Add boiling water to cover the rice one centimetre (1/2 inch), salt to taste, put the lid on and let it cook on a low fire for about 20 minutes or until all water is absorbed. Stir again, then serve.

Jordanian salt is processed from the Dead Sea and contains iodine and many other trace elements necessary to health. A one-kilogramme plastic bag of it costs 65 fls.

Powdered sugar is another local product. Just ask for it. Or you can make your own by measuring out the required amount in regular sugar and then putting that into the food blender for a few minutes. Either way you don't get that starchy taste.

If your family likes cooked cereal in the mornings then maybe you'd want to know that "Cream of Wheat" or semolina is known here as SWEED and is plentiful.

Syrian and Chinese brands of jam have recognisable pieces of fruit in them and cost half the price of European varieties.

Using powdered whole milk for cooking instead of fresh is another way to save.

Watch out for fruit and vegetable prices in the daily newspapers. If the price is high, then the particular vegetable is either pre- or post-season. When costs drop it means availability, abundance and a peak in flavour and condition.

May your budget not only be balanced, but tilted in your favour.

Would you believe it?

DISTURBED BRITISH pets can now get help for their neurosis, thanks to a Surrey vet who has opened a clinic for mixed up animals.

In four years Dr. Robert Mugford has dealt with 1,200 cases and his patients have included dogs, cats, cage birds and horses.

Silver-plated Copper Cookware by COHR OF DENMARK



Baounieh St.
Jabal Luweibdeh
Amman



Baltimore's Harborplace is now a sparkling waterfront shopping mall

Shopping malls revive US cities

By Joel Dreyfuss

DOWNTOWN SHOPPING in America's major cities is in the midst of a rebirth. Early shopping centre successes — Baltimore's Harborplace (Maryland), Boston's Faneuil Hall (Massachusetts), Miami's Omni International (Florida), Houston's Galleria (Texas), Washington's Georgetown Park Mall — have established a solid economic record.

Harborplace, for instance, a sparkling waterfront shopping mall, drew an estimated 18 million visitors in 1982 — more people than visited Florida's Disney World.

The result is a new flow of money and people to urban areas.

In Miami, major projects are adding more than 25,000 square metres of retail space downtown. Dozens of specialty shops will be in the Miami Centre alone, which includes the new pavilion Hotel.

In Milwaukee, Wisconsin, The Grand Avenue has just opened, a four-block complex of 160 shops, restaurants and businesses enclosed in glass and linked by skyways.

In Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, the \$500-million Gallery Two will open in October 1983. The new project, straddling the city's complex of urban and suburban train terminals, includes two major department stores, more than 100 shops and an office building.

Experts say the new interest in downtown is a response to economic, demographic and political change.

Cheap land and buildings have become available in many US cities. And the explosion of white-collar employment has brought thousands of middle-class consumers downtown.

Scott Ditch, vice president of the Rouse Company (architectural construction firm) of Maryland, says cities are just taking back what is theirs.

"The suburban shopping centre was an attempt to bring out to the suburbs a little piece of the city," he argues, citing centuries-old examples of shops like the Galleria in Milan, Italy. "Downtown has always been the place retailing worked best."

Brenda Rivers, owner of an ice cream shop in Miami Airport, likes shopping the Omni rather than the suburbs. "There are always other events going on simultaneously," she explains.

The new downtown boom is largely financed by private money with unusually close financial and political cooperation from city governments.

Cities provide access to transit and sewers, tax breaks, even buildings while the private developer supplies capital. An example is Miami, where a pro-development city administration has helped in the city's conversion from a regional centre to a major international city (USIS)

Recurrent stomach aches

I suffer from indigestion after eating and the pains do not seem to be going away. I had an X-ray of my stomach several years ago but it did not show anything.

to locate ulcers, inflammations, polyps or extra growths of tissue, tumours and other pathologies.

This is a long flexible tube filled with a bundle of optic fibres and a light at the end that transmits a picture to the outside end of the instrument so the doctor can see directly. Or it can be fixed to a closed-circuit television camera to be viewed on a screen by him and consultant colleagues or even videotaped for later study.

DIAGNOSTIC TECHNIQUES for dyspepsia have improved greatly recently. An instrument called a fiberoptic endoscope allows the physician to see directly into the stomach and duodenum, the first part of the small intestine.

With this device the doctor can take samples of tissue for laboratory analysis, remove growths with a wire loop, take out foreign bodies such as coins, needles and other swallowed items with a wire snare. It is even possible to remove gall bladder stones without the usual surgery. All of this is done routinely at the Internal Medicine Department of Bashir Hospital, Amman. Perhaps it would be best if you asked your original doctor for a referral or went directly to Bashir's outpatient clinic rather than continue suffering.

Vegetable macaroni

Method

- Peel and chop the tomatoes
- Chop the green pepper
- Grate the cheese
- Dissolve the stock cube in the water
- Butter an earthenware casserole and layer the ingredients beginning with the cheese, macaroni, mixed vegetables etc., finishing with grated cheese
- Pour the stock over
- Bake at 350 F. for 40 minutes

Ingredients

- 200 grammes macaroni, cooked
- 2 sticks celery, chopped
- 1 onion, chopped
- 1 - 2 cloves garlic, chopped
- 4 very-ripe tomatoes
- 1 small green pepper
- 100 grammes cheddar cheese
- salt and pepper
- 1 chicken stock cube
- eight litres of water



Cher's corner

Bambi musical romps to success

By Tricla Weir

THE ALL-PURPOSE room at the American Community School was miraculously transformed into a forest last Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday for the eleven- and twelve-year-old Sixth Graders' captivating musical performance of the famous Walt Disney story "Bambi".

Bambi is a charming story of the adventures of a young deer and his friends the forest animals. As every good story does, it has its happy sad and scary moments.

Michael Dash played Bambi, supported by Lisa Amaya as Thumper the rabbit. While Michael, complete with antlers was still catching his breath after the show, I was assured by Bumper Rabbit, alias Tracie Mahoney that he enjoyed it but "didn't like to wear the lipstick."

Lisa Amaya after the thumping performance said: "I like acting and I love musicals. I think we did pretty good." Those sentiments certainly came over clearly in her enthusiastic enactment.

Another of the lead roles, the Owl was portrayed wisely and convincingly by Ramsey Taylor in one of the most authentic owl costumes I have ever seen, while Christopher Wegelius appeared as the very lively and realistic Snowman, complete to the carrot nose!

Musical Director Mrs. Nuhad Eld said after the show: "I enjoyed working with them so much. It was hard work but I got a lot of pleasure from it. I have a very talented group."

Mrs. Joyce Kasim and Mrs. Fay Alexander were stage managers. "This has been an example of teamwork," said Mrs. Kasim. "If it's possible to achieve the same degree of co-operation from everyone, we might do it again. Now I'm going home to get some rest."

Apart from the creation of such an impressive forest atmosphere with artwork by Mrs. Olga Dawant and a backdrop by student Omar Shahwan, the whole show was linked together with such perfect timing that the audience just didn't have a moment to fidget. The players were always ready, right on cue, leaving no doubt that the weeks of dedicated rehearsal had paid off.

The 35-strong cast of birds, squirrels, foxes, otters, beavers and bats romped through songs like "Twitterpated", "Hap Hap Happy Snowman" and a moving rendition of "Love is a Song" in colourful costumes designed and made by those eternal behind-the-scenes helpers, the Mums, with such elegance and style as would do justice to some professionals.

It is impossible to give credit to the people who are involved in such a project for they are many and various. Suffice to say that on this occasion congratulations are due all round. To teachers and students and everyone who took part.

As Michelle Hashem who appeared as Faline, one of the forest deer said: "I hope everyone enjoyed it and that it was a great success for the school."

Indeed it was, Michelle. It is appropriate that this should appear on a page called "Star Kids" for those eleven- and twelve-year olds both in front of and behind the scenes certainly shone brightly last week.



A group of the cast in full song during the Wintertime scene.

Pictures by kind permission (and speed) of Mr. Howard V...



Ramsey Taylor (right) as the Owl and (left) Michael Dash, Bambi, with Lisa Amaya as Thumper.

Spot the Difference



1. Doctor has pen in breast pocket
2. His waistcoat is shorter
3. Knob has vanished from drawer of cabinet behind him
4. Plunger of syringe in L. foreground projects further
5. Top section of window has been opened
6. There is an extra strip of beading on top of door frame
7. Patient's big toe sticks up
8. Handle of hammer on stool beside him is longer
9. Less writing appears on certificate on wall
10. Waste basket beside desk is deeper

Doggy SOS

AMMAN — Can you help to make two young boys happy again? Karim and Rami had lost their little brown-haired half-chihuahua dog on Sunday night in the Sixth Circle area. If you have seen him or have any information please call about Amman 812025.

WOOPSY by Roger Mahoney



©1982 Mahoney

THE LITTLE GREY DONKEY

In this the third part of Joyce Abu Jassar's charming children's story, the little grey donkey, who ran away from his home on the farm, has been found by a peddler with three other donkeys. But life was not to be as comfortable as the little grey donkey expected....

Pictures by Joyce Abu Jassar

THAT NIGHT peddler went to sleep thinking of the gains he had made that day. In the stable the little donkey was fast asleep. He was thinking of the new life he would lead full of adventures.

The peddler awoke long before dawn on a new morning. When he reached the stable he loaded bags and boxes on the back of his three donkeys. Then he tied the little grey donkey to the back of the other three. They went through the quiet streets of the still sleeping village. Then they were out to the road leading to the next village.

Only when they started down this long road did the little donkey see the sun peeking over the top of the tall mountains.

"He gets up earlier than the old farmer," thought the little grey donkey. "How heavy is this load he has put on me. It's on my hide and it makes my back

sag under its heavy weight. I'm beginning to ache all over. My legs are tired."

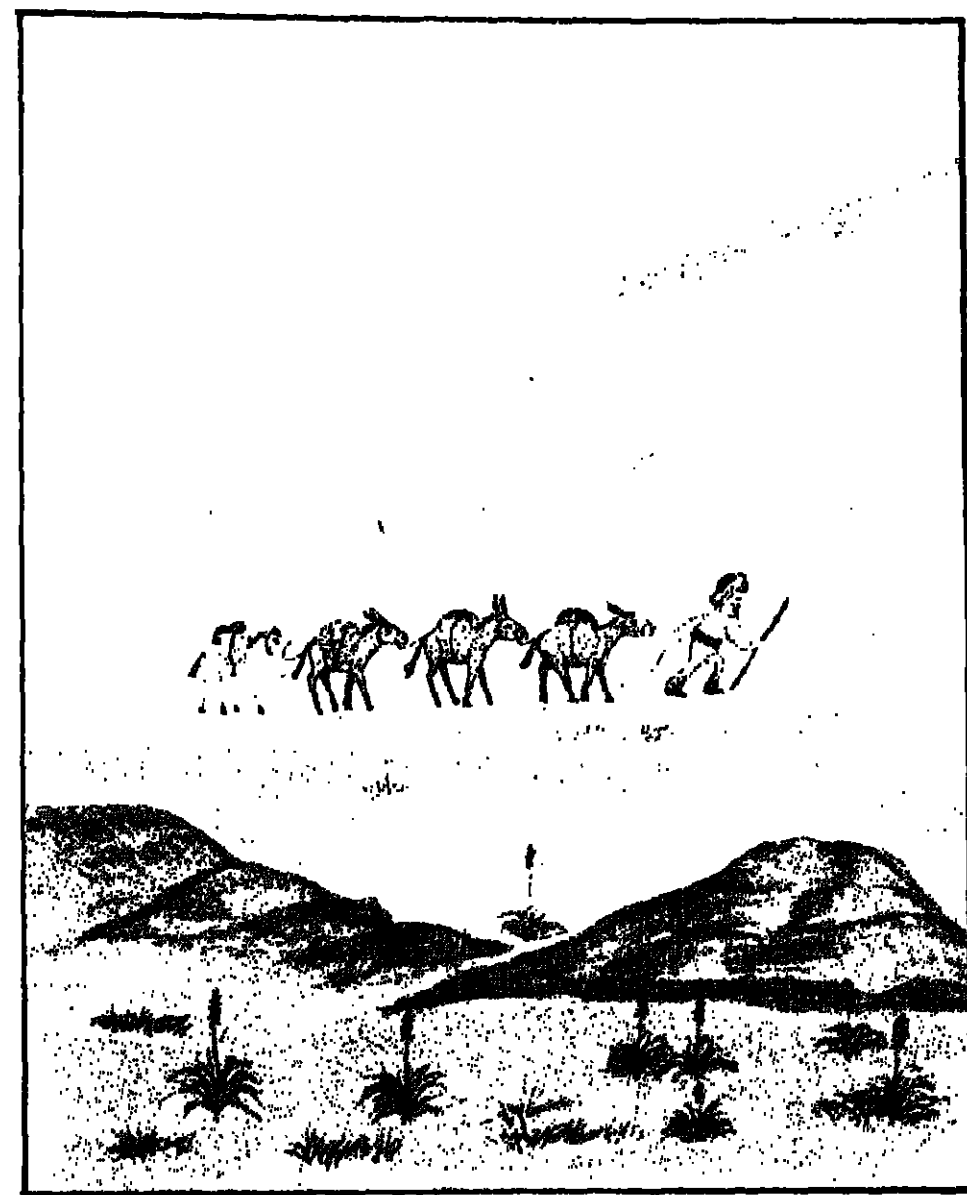
The little donkey followed the others until mid-morning complaining all the way to himself. Then he decided that he was too tired. He sat down in the middle of the road.

"This is as far as I go!" he brayed.

The two large bags slid off his back and landed in the dusty road. The peddler heard the donkey and came over to stand beside him.

"Get up. I'm in a hurry to get to the next village," he told the little donkey. But the donkey did not move from his place. The peddler took hold of the rope tied around the donkey's neck and began to pull and pull. He pulled with all his might but the little donkey did not move from his place.

The peddler then became very angry. "Get up!" he shouted. "Get up. Get up, you lazy animal."



But the little donkey did not move from his place. Then the peddler brought his long stick and began to hit the donkey with it as hard as he could. The little donkey jumped to his feet, the heavy bags hanging on either side of him.

The peddler tied the bags securely to the little donkey's back and they continued on their journey to the next village. Every time the little donkey slowed his pace the peddler would hit him again with the long stick. Then he would shout, "Faster, Faster, you lazy animal. I'll never get to market before evening."

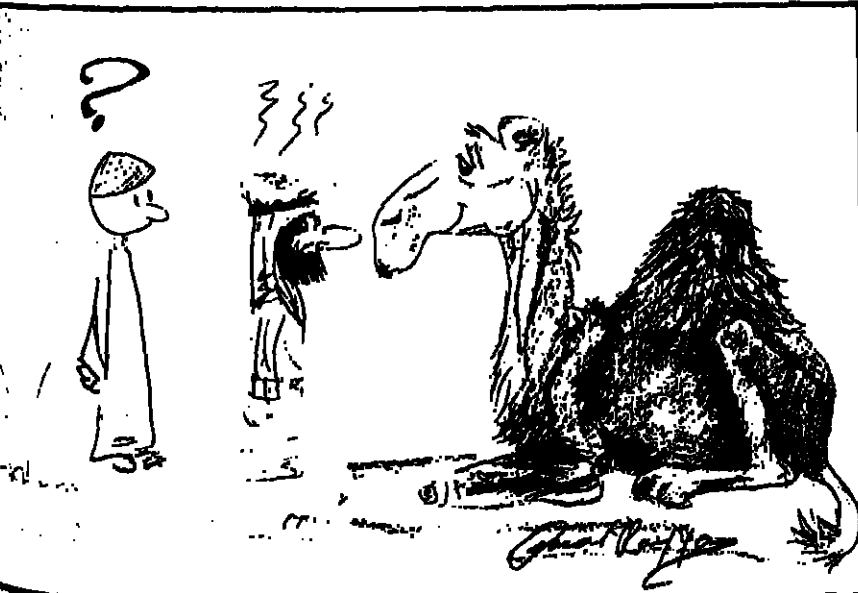
But the little donkey had learned his lesson about this man. He hurried down the road under the heavy load so the peddler would not hit him again with the stick.

They reached the marketplace late in the afternoon. There were still many people there. The peddler soon forgot his anger at the little donkey as he found people to buy his wares. But the little donkey did not forget the lesson that he had learned. His tired body, aching from the blows of the stick, helped his to remember.

"Ah," he thought, "What a terrible life this is. How my back hurts from the peddler's stick. How my legs hurt from the long journey. How my hide hurts from the heavy bags that rubbed on it. How can I live like this?"

So that night when the peddler took the donkeys to the stable the little donkey decided upon a plan. In the morning he would run away.

Don't miss the final part next week.

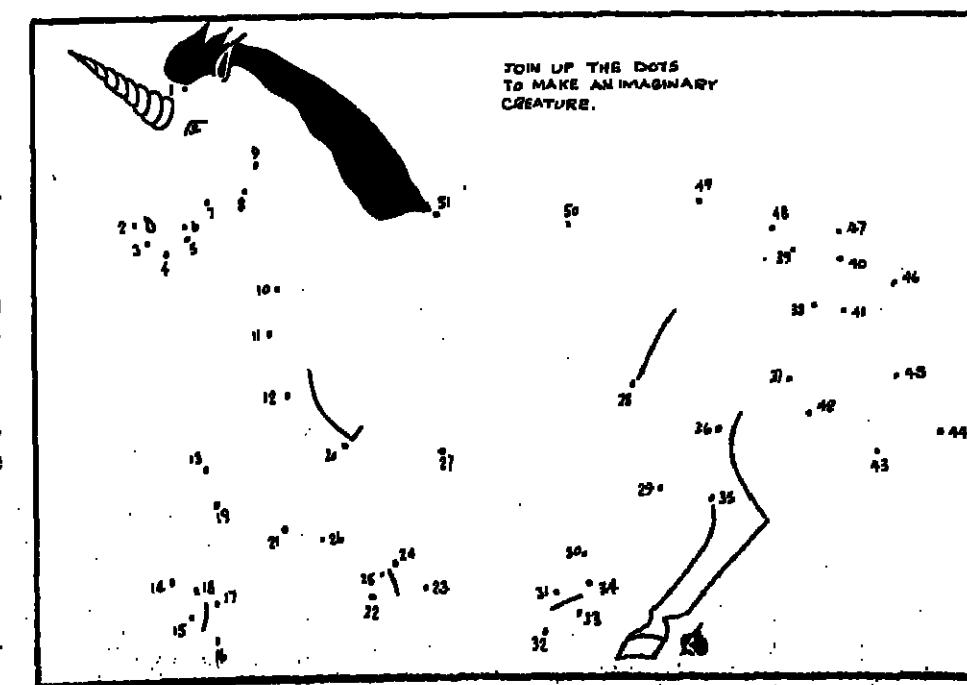


Cartoon sketch was sent in by Omar Rayyan aged 14, from the American Community School, Amman. Thanks, Omar — TV.

Swop-a-Joke

Q: "Do you serve crabs here?"
A: "We serve anyone, sit down!"
Q: "Do you have soup on the menu?"
A: "I did, but I just wiped it off!"
Q: "This plate is well!"
A: "That's your soup, sir!"
Q: Why do birds fly south?
A: Because it's too far to walk!
Q: What kind of dog has no tail?
A: A hot dog!
Q: Why do firemen wear red braces?
A: To hold up their trousers, of course!
Q: Student: "How were your exams?"
A: "They were easy, but I had trouble with the answers!"
Q: Which animals in Noah's ark did not come in pairs?
A: The ones that came in apples!

What is it when you light its head its stomach boils?
A: Hubby-bubbly!
I am long and thin. You can lift me with your hand but others are afraid of me. What am I?
A: needle!
We are two neighbours who live side by side but we never see each other. Who are we?
The eyes!
What is it that speaks all languages?
An echo!
Why did the man come out of the operating theatre wearing only one sock?
Because the doctor used the other one for the anaesthetic!
These jokes and riddles were sent in by Tarik (9) and Marianne (14) Fouad of the Islamic College, Amman.



JOIN UP THE DOTS TO MAKE AN IMAGINARY CREATURE.



Words and pictures by Tricia Weir

Every pitcher tells a story!

MUTHENA Shamma of the Royal Falcons (right) and Brandon Benedicto of the Salute team in top form for last Friday's Senior League baseball match at the American Community School playing fields. It was a pitcher's game, keeping spectators and players always on their toes. Final

score tallied at 3-0 for Salute, placing them at the top of the Senior League.

Football

Wehdat club beat Al-Hilal soccer team of Jerusalem 3-0 in a club international match played during the week. The visiting team also lost by the same margin to Al-Jazira in a second match which was stopped by the referee at the end of the first half.

Table tennis

Marwan Dia won the men's table tennis tournament organised at the Sports City at the weekend. The second place was taken by Ayman Kurd, followed by Abdul-Azis Rida and Nafiz Jum'a in that order. In the competition for boys under 17 years, Ziyad Nuwar came first followed by Fakhridine Fouad and Kayed Kalbunch. Cups and medals were presented to the first and second winners.

Volleyball

A thirty member Iraqi volleyball squad made up of 25 players and five officials arrived in Amman last week at the invitation of the Ministry of Culture and Youth. In games played, the Iraqi men's side beat Al-Husseini 3-0. The Iraqis also won a second match against Wehdat beating them 3-1. The Iraqis have since left for home.

Up & Coming

The Armed Forces basketball championship will begin on Saturday and continue till Monday.

The soccer tournament of the society colleges is expected to begin on Monday. The first match will be between the Arab College and Amman College at the Arab College park at 3 p.m.

US set for Olympic gold in women's gymnastics

The United States stands a good chance of winning the Olympic gold medal in women's gymnastics in 1984 with the help of 16-year old Tracee Talavera. Picture above shows Talavera in action on the crossbar. A tireless trainer and tough competitor, she is America's top female gymnast. Talavera won a bronze medal in the balance beam in the 1981 World Games in Moscow and came first in the women all-round division at the US championships in 1982.

European soccer scene

Ajax Amsterdam poised to win this year's Dutch football league made certain their victory when they beat Helmond Sport 4-1. This put them four clear points ahead of their closest rivals Feyenoord Rotterdam who are second on the table.

In Italy, AC Roma are leading the league with 41 points and with one more game to go they seem to be snatching the title from Juventus who have 38 points.

Brighton and Swansea football clubs of England have been relegated to the second division. This followed their defeats last Saturday. Brighton lost 0-1 to Manchester City while Swansea were beaten 2-1 by Manchester United.

Results of other matches played were:

Westham	2	Notts County	0
Liverpool	0	Aston Villa	0
Arsenal	0	Sunderland	1
Nottingham	2	Norwich	2
Stoke	3	Coventry	0
Luton	1	Everton	5
Ipswich	3	Watford	1
West Bromwich	1	Southampton	0



Scene of confrontation in the Arsenal-Sunderland duel.

On top of Everest

KATMANDU, NEPAL (AP) — A team of four Americans and one Sherpa guide climbed to the top of Mount Everest on Saturday, making a total of 14 US climbers who have scaled the world's tallest mountain, Nepal's Ministry of Tourism reported.

Larry Nielson, a 35-year-old teacher from Olympia, Washington, reached the summit without the aid of

an oxygen mask, thus becoming the first American to do so.

Petjumandno 27, floor manager of a mountaineering shop of Durango, Colorado, Gerard 'A. Roach', 39, a computer scientist from Boulder, Colorado, and photographer David Breashears, 27, of Newton, Massachusetts, joined Nielson in the successful bid on the 8,700-metre summit.

Accompanied by Ang Rita, a 34-year-old veteran Nepalese Sherpa guide, the Americans reached the top at about 4:00 pm local time after getting out early on Saturday from their Camp Four at 7,860 metres on the south column.

The five stayed at the top for about 35 minutes, said a technician for an American TV crew who had radio contact with the climbers.

Fun And Fitness

By James M. Manning
United States Sports Academy

Tennis elbow

THE PAIN, the frustration and the helplessness of the situation which occurs to the recreational tennis player, the second rate hacker, the tennis enthusiast, or even the tennis professional is unfortunately an extremely debilitating experience. Some of the best players in the game have suffered from tennis elbow including Stan Smith, No. 1 in the world in 1972; John Newcombe, United States champion in 1961 and 1973 and Wimbledon champion in 1970; and Maria Bueno, also a Wimbledon and United States champion.

All of these professionals seem to believe that tennis elbow, pain on the medial and/or lateral aspect of the elbow, caused their eventual demise. Some have even admitted to "running around" the backhand in the finals of a tournament because of the intense pain of their backhand stroke.

What did some of the professionals do who suffered from tennis elbow? Some started taking pain pills, cortisone injections, acupuncture, changing racquets from wood to metal, loosening the strings, curtailing playing schedules, visiting faith healers, deep massage, strengthening their forearm, and performing flexibility exercises on the forearm.

What is tennis elbow? Tennis elbow is the pain on the medial and/or lateral aspect of the elbow. It is pain to a tendon which has been overloaded with stress.

From what they know now, what would some professionals do after suffering from tennis elbow that they did not do then? Some have indicated that they would do a lot more forearm stretching, play with a lighter racquet, loosen their strings, lay off playing as soon as the pain arose, put themselves on a weight training programme, and then ice down their elbow following the matches.

What can recreational players do so as not to suffer from the so called "hacker's elbow"? One suggestion would be to make or correct their strokes so that they are biomechanically efficient. Another is to have the proper size grip. One suggested method is to measure, with a ruler, from the crease in your palm to the tip of your ring finger, that being the correct grip size for that player. One of the most important aspects to preventing tennis elbow as well as other overall injuries is to get in shape to play tennis rather than playing tennis to get in shape.

DO YOU HAVE any questions about fitness? If so, please contact the US Sports Academy, Box 8630, Mobile, AL 36608.

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Intimate Starcasts

By Henry Arnold

Week commencing 12 May, 1983

CAPRICORN — December 21st to January 19th

You should feel extremely flattered and delighted by a compliment you are paid by a member of the opposite sex who attracts you in quite a romantic way. A good opportunity comes your way some time during this week, but even though you may feel optimistic about it, you should go cautiously. An important personal matter should turn out much more successfully than you had first thought, and you will be feeling very pleased.

AQUARIUS — January 20th to February 18th

This should be an excellent week from the romantic point of view. You can ask what favours you want, and make propositions. Someone who is close to you will help you to complete a task which you have been putting off, and you should feel very grateful to them. You could find that you are very popular with someone from your business life, and this should prove to be extremely advantageous. You can expect a long awaited move, as luck has turned your way.

PISCES — February 19th to March 20th

Take a close person into your confidence about something which has been causing you quite a lot of worry recently, for you will find they have some good advice to give you. Someone may bring you news of a future plan which could concern you, and you should feel happy about the arrangements of this. Around mid-week, an old flame could turn up out of the blue, but you would be unwise to renew your association with this person.

ARIES — March 21st to April 20th

A loved one may suggest something which is rather ambitious, and you would be well advised to treat this with great caution. This should be an excellent week for you with one exception don't take risks with money or things could go wrong. Where business is concerned, you may be thinking of breaking up a partnership. Leave things just as they are for the time being, as it would not be a wise move to do anything just now.

TAURUS — April 21st to May 20th

A loved one's attitude may have caused you to worry a little just recently, but this is a week in which you can expect a change very much for the better. You could receive some very exciting news this week, but you would be well advised to give it careful thought before committing yourself to anything. Try your best not to show too much enthusiasm for a personal scheme, or someone who is close to you could feel rather neglected.

GEMINI — May 21st to June 20th

Where finances are concerned, this should prove to be one of your best weeks for some time past, due to the fact that an old investment could start to pay dividends. Also, you should be able to make some really excellent strides in a romance, which has been running rather unevenly of late. You could hear some surprising news towards the end of this week, which could benefit both yourself and another member of your family.

CANCER — June 21st to July 21st

An old friend who has been in the background as a faithful and reliable person may show a romantic interest in you, and you should encourage this. A longstanding wish of yours could come to the fore some time during this week, and you should feel much more cheerful than you have been lately. You will find that this week holds an encouraging outlook for you, so use both your intuition and your imagination.

LEO — July 22nd to August 21st

The indications are that this will probably be a rather changeable week. One moment bright, and the next stormy, so try to exercise plenty of caution. You may find that you will have a very full social programme this week, but it is important that you should not neglect essential jobs. A sudden change of mind by a close person may worry you a little during this week, but you will find that it is quite necessary.

VIRGO — August 22nd to September 21st

A new friendship could be brought about by a coincidence and you may find yourself placing high hopes on this. You could have a very good opportunity to strengthen a newly formed tie, which will make you feel more settled and optimistic about the future. A reunion with a close friend could be the highlight of your week, but don't let happiness cloud your judgement.

LIBRA — September 22nd to October 22nd

Preparation for a future journey may fill your mind during this coming week, and you could receive a very pleasant financial surprise. This week could bring you plenty of quite happiness, and a person could appear whom you have not seen for a long time. Towards the end of the week, you may receive a social invitation which should prove to be very gay and thoroughly enjoyable. Give a loved one encouragement to convey their feelings for you.

SCORPIO — October 23rd to November 21st

During this week, a near one could surprise you by their shrewd logic and you would be well advised to be guided by them. You should receive some very encouraging developments in a friendship which you have recently been trying to strengthen. Don't worry if you feel that a person who is close to you is holding something back from you. You will find very soon, that they have very good reason for doing so.

SAGITTARIUS — November 22nd to December 20th

Explain exactly what you want to a loved one rather than beating about the bush, and you should find that you get full assistance from them. However much you may be attracted to a new personality, you would do much better to remember that in the background is a very reliable and dependable friend. You could have your patience rewarded by gaining the support of a rather difficult person who has been somewhat of a hindrance to you in the past.

Thursday 12 May

Birthday Greetings to You. You may find that extra hard work could be necessary where business is concerned during the coming twelve months, but the rewards from this should make you feel more than repaid.

Even though you may have just a little worried regarding family matters at periods throughout the last year, these difficulties should soon be overcome owing to your natural tendency to be diplomatic at most times when you are handling delicate situations.

In your personal life, romance is very well starred throughout the whole of these coming twelve months, and social activities should prove to be more enjoyable than for quite some years past.

Friday 13 May

Birthday Greetings to You. One of the happily outstanding points that is indicated for you this coming year, is a great improvement in your health, just as long as you do not allow too much responsibility to be placed on your shoulders, for it appears that you are inclined to worry, recover the smallest details.

New friends should come into your life during this coming year, and a very and extremely happy time lies ahead of you in the social field. Whilst for the eligible ones amongst you, romance with a capital 'R' plays a big part in your life, around the August period.

The health of someone near to you could give you cause for just a little anxiety, but there is no need for this, as they should be fit and well again very soon.

Saturday 14 May

Birthday Greetings to You. Business or job-wise, someone in authority should be extremely pleased with your progress and towards the end of July could offer you an opportunity to travel in connection with your work. You would be well advised to accept this, as there is little doubt that it could bring some very unexpected openings which could benefit you in the future.

Around the October period, you may find that family affairs could become rather pressing. This, however, should be short-lived, and quite soon afterwards, both home life and personal life should be running on very smooth times.

Health, as such, should present no problems during this coming year, but as long as you take care not to worry over trivial matters.

Birthday

Information

Charts

Monday 16 May

Birthday Greetings to You. Always bearing in mind that you should not live on your nerves too much, there is very little doubt that your health should be 100% better for you this year than it has been for some time past.

Around the July period, you could be offered the opportunity to travel. However, before arriving at your decision, you would do well to seek the advice of someone near to you, as this could change the whole pattern of your life.

Where your working life is concerned, promotion is strongly indicated for you around December to January period, and in connection with this, quite naturally, a financial gain should come your way.

Sunday 15 May

Birthday Greetings to You. You could find yourself making quite a lot of new friends during the coming year, and where social activities are concerned, things should in consequence, brighten up considerably.

For the eligible ones amongst you, an unusual introduction to a member of the opposite sex before the end of November could develop into quite an exciting romance.

Financial matters should be fairly smooth throughout the whole year. Nothing wonderful, but certainly not as bad as they have been, and it could be through the help of a close friend that a new venture could bring in some extra money and thus make you feel much more secure.

Where work is concerned, promotion is indicated but not until the winter months, and this will mean that you will be holding quite a responsible position.

Tuesday 17 May

Birthday Greetings to you. Financially, there appears to be a gain coming your way, throughout the year, so that by your next anniversary, you should be feeling pretty comfortable.

You should at this stage, emerge from all the personal problems which have been worrying you, and your life will run on much smoother lines this coming year.

There is every likelihood of a new romance in your life during the next two months. For the young and old, there will be much activity in the social field, and for the single ones amongst you, there is a very definite sign of a wedding.

Wednesday 18 May

Birthday Greetings to You. Money matters have been troubling you, but during the next two months, something will happen that will relieve you of all financial worries for a very long time to come.

A very exciting romance is indicated for the younger ones amongst you, and for young and old alike, there will be many more friends during a whirl of social activity.

If someone approaches you with a suggestion of a new project, you would be well advised to be very cautious before you commit yourself in any way. There are many bright plans awaiting you, and it would be a shame to spoil them through someone else's intervention.

Family ties will be extra strong this coming year, and any children born within the next three months, will be most talented and attractive.

